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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-217 *9 November 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Asks Iraq To Accept Oil for Food Deal

NC0811143095 Paris AFP in English
1007 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Arab League's secretary general said Wednesday [8 November] he had asked Iraq to accept for a trial period a UN resolution allowing it to export some of its oil to pay for food and medicine.

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid told the Qatari newspapers AL-RAYAH and AL-SHARQ that he had discussed the idea with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

"I propose that Iraq strike a deal with the UN sanctions committee to apply resolution 986 for six months, and decide after this test period on whether to continue to apply this resolution or reject it," 'Abd-al-Majid said.

Iraq has rejected the measure which allows Baghdad to export up to one billion dollars of oil each quarter in order to buy food and medicine, but under strict UN supervision.

Baghdad has denounced the resolution adopted in April — as well as similar ones adopted earlier — as a violation of its sovereignty.

'Abd-al-Majid said he would "have preferred to see the embargo lifted from today."

The oil embargo imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 cannot be lifted before the United Nations certifies Baghdad has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction under UN resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war.

Expelled Palestinians Call For UN Help

NC0811205795 Paris AFP in English
2042 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 8 (AFP) — About 200 Palestinians expelled by Libya and blocked at the Egyptian-Libyan border since the beginning of October have pleaded to the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to help them "return to Palestine."

"We urge the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Refugees, human rights organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to help us return to our country, Palestine," said a letter carried for the refugees by travellers from Libya.

The Palestinians, who lack the proper travel documents, have been stuck at a makeshift border camp in the no man's land between Egypt and Libya.

"We are suffering in this camp from a lack of food and water, and we are living in very harsh weather conditions in tents housing elderly and children," the letter said.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi began expelling the 30,000 Palestinians living in his country to show what he said was the failure of the peace accords signed with Israel to create a Palestinian homeland.

At the urging of Arab leaders he has suspended the expulsions.

Paper: Rabin Death Will Not Stop 'Peace Train'

MM0711154495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
7 Nov 95 p 17

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Rabin Resting, But Train Will Not Rust"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination can be regarded as one of the ramifications of that huge coup the Middle East witnessed when the Oslo agreement was signed on the White House lawn some 26 months ago. If the assassination has proved anything, it is the scale of this coup, which has changed the picture of the Middle East and can be compared only with the proclamation of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

The difference this time is that the ramifications and effects of the coup have not been limited to the Arab world. It has had an impact on Israel itself and exposed both the points of weakness and the points of strength in Israeli society. The weakness is represented in the existence of deep splits inside this society. These splits were hidden by the state of mobilization that dominated the society. The strength is represented in institutions that have demonstrated that Rabin's absence has not left a vacuum in government. On the contrary, all the Israeli parties, including Likud, have expressed a strong desire to maintain the continuation of the government.

It is possible to talk about Rabin the general and Rabin the fighter, but it is not possible to ignore Rabin the politician, who contributed to implementing the big coup by recognizing the Palestinian people and their aspirations. And due to his ability to triumph over himself first, Yitzhaq Rabin departed this life with Israel establishing relations at various levels with at least eight Arab states, in addition to the Palestinian National Authority, but without being able to reconcile the Israelis with one another. It seems that everything has a price.

In Yitzhaq Rabin's absence, Israel will find itself busy with how to reconcile the Israelis with one another and

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how to make them understand that they are part of the region in which the big coup occurred. And how the effects of the coup apply to them too. Because Yitzhaq Rabin departed after he had shelved the "greater Israel" dream, which he considered a project that could harm Israel, its future, and the purity of the Hebrew state.

A page has been turned in the history of the Middle East and Israel. But the page of peace is still open. Proof of this is that peace has become one of the vital interests of every state or party associated with it. Indicative of this is that President Husni Mubarak, who has not visited Israel since he took office, took part in Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral. Had it not been for his awareness that peace required such a step and that peace is an Egyptian necessity, he would not have embarked on it. And since it is almost impossible to abandon this road, the Israeli Government has no option but to continue what Yitzhaq Rabin started. It is clear that Shim'on Peres — who differed a few days ago with Yitzhaq Rabin over ways of dealing with Damascus, as the late prime minister escalated the situation with Syria to the point of leveling accusations at Damascus, describing it as "the center of terrorism" — could find no reply to this escalation other than to say that he was "100 percent certain" that an agreement could be reached with Syria before the Israeli elections. True, Peres is no Rabin, but it is also true that part of the vacuum left by the latter can be filled by another general, namely Ehud Barak, who was preparing to assume the leadership of the Labor Party but is now likely to move from the Interior Ministry to the Defense Ministry.

On the eve of his murder General Rabin seemed to have achieved the maximum he could achieve politically, and he has left a legacy which his party with its new men — and there are many of them — could make use of. Whereas he as a fighter is at rest, the Israelis will not be able to rest, now that his assassination has revealed the depth of the splits from which their society is suffering. It has also revealed to them that their only option is to continue what he started on the White House lawn. That is, to acknowledge that Israel's security cannot be achieved at the expense of others' security. And that what has been achieved so far has one meaning: the peace train will not stop. The participation of all those leaders in Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral is evidence that the train's journey is continuing...and it will not stop to join at rest a fighter named Yitzhaq Rabin.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reassured of Peres Commitment to Timetable

JN0911065995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres reaffirmed Israel's commitment to the redeployment timetable of the Israeli occupation army outside the Palestinian populated areas in the West Bank. This came during a telephone conversation last night between President Yasir 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres to review the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

'Abbas Believes Peace Process To Continue

NC0811222695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Statement by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas to Hasan Zaytuni in "Ramallah" on 8 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination was an act designed to block the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. This was made clear by several extremist organizations such as EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] which announced that it will assassinate Palestinians and Israelis who sign peace agreements. Rabin's assassination was an attempt by fascist extremists to hinder peace. Shim'on Peres, Rabin's long-time comrade and government colleague, will assume power after him. Peres is no less experienced than Yitzhaq Rabin. Both are products of the Israeli establishment. Peres is a former prime minister and was foreign minister more than once. He was Labor Party leader between 1977 and 1992. He is a firm believer in a political settlement. We believe that the peace process will continue and that there will be no hindrances. The assassination can be viewed as an attempt to hinder the peace. This is the first time such a thing has happened in Israel—killing a prime minister—because of the peace process. It is a blow against democracy.

Rabin's Death Seen Giving 'Strong Momentum' to Peace

TA0811184595 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 7 Nov 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Rabin's Death Consolidated the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was buried yesterday. Grief engulfed Israelis everywhere. One must admit, however, that the man

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who killed Rabin was not the one who pulled the trigger. All those who agitated against the peace agreements and Rabin's policies bear the responsibility.

Rabin fell victim to the violence which he opposed, but he was not aware that extremism and violence had spread so far in Israeli society that a Jew would kill the prime minister of his state. This is the first time that Israel's leaders have been exposed to assassination. In a society that practices democracy and in which the opposition is able — if it convinces the public of its views — to topple any government, there are no motives for political assassination. If the Israeli radical camp managed to kill the highest official in the Israeli Government, it resorted to this method because it failed to convince the public that it was right.

It seems that Rabin's murder will have an adverse effect. Israeli right-wing extremism, which seeks to torpedo the peace process, avoid giving the Palestinians their rights, keep the occupied Palestinian territories, establish Greater Israel on Palestinian land, and perhaps even go further than this, has suffered its biggest defeat in its history.

More than ever, the Israeli street today is supporting the peace option devised by Rabin. What happened today in Israel reminds us of what took place 32 years ago when U.S. President John Kennedy was killed. The American people and Congress were opposed to his domestic policy of giving the blacks their civil rights. Suddenly, U.S. public opinion shifted in favor of Kennedy's program. President Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, managed to implement more than Kennedy could have ever dreamed in his lifetime. That something similar to this could happen in Israel is more than just a possibility. In the future, the Israeli right wing will not have the leading role it had in the past. The peace option will not disappear, as Rabin's assassin and those who hold his opinions had hoped. This option — as the world leaders who came to Israel to participate in Rabin's funeral affirmed — will live no matter how much the foes of peace in the Israeli radical camp try to destroy it. The adage which says "one who digs a pit for others will fall in it himself" is true.

While Rabin's Labor Party was apprehensive about its future in power, indications affirm that Rabin's departure has given a strong impetus to the forces of moderation and the peace camp. The killer has indeed managed to change the course of history, but in the opposite direction that he and his ilk had hoped. They did not succeed in killing the hope of the region's people for achieving security, stability, and prosperity. If in the past Rabin was subjected to sharp criticism from the Israeli public because of what it considered as risks for the sake of achieving peace, his departure and the shock which it triggered have turned this criticism into an awakening in support of everything that Rabin strived for in his lifetime.

In his death Rabin has achieved what he dreamed of achieving in his lifetime. That is to reunify the Israeli people, who are divided over the issue of peace, restore their solidarity, and move them away from fanaticism and violence, which must not be practiced against other parties or spread in Israeli society. History has proved that terrorist actions lead to the opposite of what they intended. Rabin's murder will weaken the radical right-wing forces and give a strong momentum to peace.

Military Commanders Meet Israeli Counterparts

JN0811162195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian-Israeli meeting was held today at the joint liaison command headquarters in the area of Janin. During the meeting, the Palestinian side received maps that show the route of joint patrols in Janin.

The meeting was attended for the Palestinian side by Colonel Fayiz 'Arafat, commander of the Palestinian national security forces in the Janin area; and Colonel Zaki 'Arafat, official in charge of the liaison committee. [Moshe Il'ad], coordinator of the Israeli liaison committee, attended for the Israeli side.

The attendees also discussed preparations for the meeting that will be held tomorrow between Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the national security forces in the West Bank, and General [Gadi Over], commander of the occupation army forces in the West Bank.

Further on Meeting

JN0711161595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il, commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces in the West Bank, and General (Gadi Over), commander of the occupation forces in the West Bank, are discussing in Janin the practical arrangements for the occupation forces' withdrawal from Janin and its villages and for the Palestinian forces' entry into them.

The Palestinian side led by Brigadier General Ribhi 'Arafat, head of the Joint Liaison Committee in the West Bank, and the Israeli side led by Colonel (Dani Shagar), commander of the occupation army in the area, held a meeting this morning with a number of coordination and joint Palestinian-Israeli joint patrol officers.

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Discussions during the meeting, held at the Liaison Committee headquarters in the al-Shuhada' neighborhood in the Janin area, focused on certain Taba agreement articles pertaining to the work of joint patrols.

Abu-Rudaynah Hopes Redeployment Will Continue

JN0811151595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian and Israeli teams today began talks on the transfer of powers to the Palestinian National Authority in the areas of real estate, housing, and property tax. Meanwhile, Israeli forces resumed redeployment in the West Bank. President 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah spoke to our radio on these subject.

[Begin Abu-Rudaynah recording] Several Palestinian-Israeli meetings have taken place over the past few hours on the transfer of civilian powers and redeployment in Janin. However, what we demand is full Israeli redeployment and a full entry of Palestinian forces into Janin. As you know, the agreement says that withdrawal should be completed by 17 November. Palestinian forces have not entered the city yet. Only some Palestinian liaison officers arrived in the city to examine redeployment plans and specify the posts to be taken up by the Palestinian police forces.

Military meetings are continuing with the purpose of defining the time and place of the Palestinian forces' arrival. No Palestinian forces have entered the city yet although the agreement reached with the Israeli Government says withdrawal from the city of Janin and its governorate should be completed by 17 November.

According to the set timetable, redeployment in the West Bank is supposed to begin on 25 October and end on 31 December, whereby Israel will have withdrawn or redeployed its troops in six Palestinian cities and seven governorates. As is well known, we need another three months following this date to complete withdrawal from Hebron as stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement signed in Taba and Washington.

This is the situation. We hope that what was agreed upon will be implemented, particularly in the aftermath of the assassination of Rabin. All are concerned that there might be some delay in implementing the agreement. However, U.S. President Clinton conveyed important political signs to us. He telephoned President 'Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] from his plane on the night of 6 November and said Israel is committed to redeployment, withdrawal, and implementation of the agreement. He also reiterated the U.S. pledge to support the peace process. President 'Abu-'Ammar heard the same thing from President Mubarak in Cairo yesterday morning after the latter's return from Rabin's funeral and his meeting with Peres. The Egyptian president asserted that the Israelis are committed to the implementation of what was agreed in Taba and Cairo. We are waiting to see the agreement implemented in Janin and its governorate within the next few days. [end recording]

Urges Israel To Implement Accord

NC0811165295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has emphasized that the importance of yesterday's summit meeting between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat stems from the continuous, summit-level Egyptian-Palestinian contacts.

In statements to our Central News Unit, he said the Palestinian-Egyptian meetings on the implementation of the self-rule accord and bilateral relations are continuing. He added that a major problem has been facing the accord for some time now. He said, it is Israel's delay in implementing the accord's provisions on various pretexts. He remarked that this delay only serves the extremist elements.

Abu-Rudaynah said there are extremist, clandestine Israeli organizations issuing statements making their goals public. He added that the Israeli Government must bear its responsibilities and implement what has been agreed upon with strictness and sincerity because this is the only way to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

PLO Envoy Fears Israel Military May Stall Talks

BR0811114095 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 8 Nov p 6

[Interview with PLO Ambassador to Italy Nimr Hammad by Antonio Ferrari in Jerusalem; date not given: "Fear of Generals Emerges Within PLO" — first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem — The PLO's ambassador to Italy, Nimr Hammad, is in Jerusalem for the first time. He paid a nostalgic visit to the kibbutz built on the ruins of the village near Tel Aviv where he was born, after which he attended Saturday's peace rally, which ended tragically in Rabin's assassination.

Everyone is rediscovering the valuable role performed by the late prime minister, who ultimately managed to surmount apparently insurmountable obstacles. "That is why," Nimr Hammad said, "we will have to see how the generals behave now that Rabin is no longer. In the latest negotiations the senior officers created an interminable series of problems, which only the

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prime minister's final intervention made it possible to resolve. But what will happen now? There are two possible scenarios: 1. The Israeli military multiplies the complications, in which case the threats to the implementation of the accords will become huge; 2. The generals understand, following this terrible attack, that the real danger to the State of Israel comes from foreign settlers. They must be combated because they kill people, as they have shown. In this latter eventuality, it would be possible to be more optimistic.

[CORRIERE] What do you think would have happened if Rabin's assassin had been not a Jew but a Palestinian?

[Hammad] I do not dare to think about it. Perhaps the entire peace process would have collapsed.

[CORRIERE] Do you think that the Israeli secret services are faltering?

[Hammad] No, I think that their entire security apparatus is concentrated on hunting down Palestinian extremists. They have not devoted themselves enough to combating extremists within Israel.

Authority Arranging Dialogue With Hamas

JN0811164095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the National Authority's [NA] Presidency, said he hopes the NA and the Hamas Movement will come to an agreement before the upcoming Palestinian legislative elections. He announced that the legislative elections will be held on 20 January.

'Abd-al-Rahim was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a symposium on the Palestinian elections law held by the Ministry of Information at al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza today. He said that the NA is ready to hold the elections, adding that the PLO factions are also ready to take part in these elections.

'Abd-al-Rahim said there are ongoing contacts with the Hamas Movement to set a date and venue for dialogue. He said that the NA sent a special envoy to Khartoum to inform Sudan of its wish to hold this dialogue somewhere close to the Palestinian areas, especially in light of current circumstances, which include political developments, and the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

The Presidency's secretary general stressed that the NA is eager to have everyone participate in decisionmaking. He said that the legislative elections will be democratic and honest.

Hamas Threatens To Stop Talks With PA Over Arrests

TA0711192595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Gaza says that the Palestinian security forces have arrested several of its activists and are looking for others. The Hamas statement says that the operation against its members will put an end to the talks between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA].

Hamas Preparing List for Council Elections

TA0911055795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] fundamentalist group is getting together a list of candidates for the Palestinian council elections which will include all Palestinian factions that are opposed to the Oslo accord. Hamas activists are trying to convince Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi to run against PLO leader 'Arafat for the position of president of the council.

Hamas Opposition Spokesman: 'Arafat Not Our Target

BR0811113695 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 8 Nov 95 p 6

[Interview with Mahmud al-Zahhar, Hamas leader in Gaza, by Andrea Purgatori in Gaza; date not given: "Hamas Turnabout: Proffered Hand to 'Arafat" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Nothing is static, nothing is unchanging in Palestine. It almost seemed as though Yitzhaq Rabin's death had suddenly pulled the rug from under the PLO's old lion, but now the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] internal opposition is proffering him an outstretched hand, advocating reconciliation, and above all offering him the chance to extricate himself from political isolation here in Gaza and the rest of the territories. This could prove to be a very useful card for Yasir 'Arafat to play in the negotiations with the Israelis. Very risky with regard to concessions, but definitely one to be played. And very probably the negotiations will take place in Cairo in a month's time at the most. "There are no alternatives. Either for him, or for us," Mahmud al-Zahhar said, stroking his beard. Dr. al-Zahhar is a medic and teaches at the Islamic University. But here in Gaza, he is above all the Hamas leader. He has paid for this. First, under the Israeli occupation and later with the police force of 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority: beatings, interrogations,

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imprisonment. He received us in his clinic on Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir street. There was a policeman in his room, too, in blue uniform with his cap tucked under his epaulette. Could we talk nevertheless? "Of course, it does not matter. Please sit down, welcome."

[Purgatori] Dr. al-Zahhar, you said some very harsh things after Rabin's assassination.

[Al-Zahhar] We said the same things to the Israelis while they were deporting us from our homes. These dirty games will affect you too: If you encourage your soldiers to break our bones, do you think that they will behave like humans when they return home? The people who used violence against the Palestinians will use it against the Jews as well, if they think that they are in danger. Those people were acting on Rabin's orders, under his protection. He gathered the bitter fruit of this.

[Purgatori] Will the peace process become slower?

[Al-Zahhar] What peace? Peace is not the Oslo agreement.

[Purgatori] Do you consider it humiliating?

[Al-Zahhar] It is merely compensation for opening up the Arab markets to Israel. It will not resolve the security question. Peres will have plenty of problems.

[Purgatori] What about 'Arafat?

[Al-Zahhar] Now he is afraid of what might happen.

[Purgatori] Physically afraid?

[Al-Zahhar] Look, he is not our target. We have no legal justification for killing him. He should be afraid of the Israelis. It was they, and the Egyptians, who told him not to attend Rabin's funeral.

[Purgatori] How would you describe the atmosphere in Gaza?

[Al-Zahhar] People are happy. Rabin caused us much suffering. Many of our people are still in prison. We lost thousands of people on Rabin's orders, and our bones still ache from the blows he inflicted on us. This is why we are pleased that he died in this way, killed by an Israeli. This is important.

[Purgatori] Please explain, Dr. al-Zahhar. What is important?

[Al-Zahhar] If he had been killed by an Arab, he would have become a hero. Instead, he is not. This is splitting Israeli society, polarizing it. And now they are afraid of a civil war. They who have always sought in every way to cause a civil war to break out in our land. By encouraging the PLO to attack us, to confiscate our weapons, to throw us in jail. Now it is they who are on the brink of civil war.

[Purgatori] Does the Palestinian police still cause you problems?

[Al-Zahhar] Well, they did throw me in jail: 105 days. But since my release things have been much better. The repression has lessened.

[Purgatori] Have you met with 'Arafat?

[Al-Zahhar] Since my release? No.

[Purgatori] When was the last time you spoke?

[Al-Zahhar] Before. Before... (Mahmud al-Zahhar laughed) But now we will meet again. Away from here.

[Purgatori] Where?

[Al-Zahhar] Perhaps in Cairo, perhaps in Sudan.

[Purgatori] Why not here? You could simply get in your car and drive there.

[Al-Zahhar] No. Hamas is here, but in other territories too. And he too is the leader of the PLO, but the PLO is not only here in Gaza.

[Purgatori] Will there be scope for reconciliation?

[Al-Zahhar] There are no alternatives to reconciliation.

[Purgatori] Does 'Arafat have no alternatives?

[Al-Zahhar] Even if he did, he is bound to lose. (Al-Zahhar pointed to the man in the blue uniform, standing behind us) Do you see him? He is my brother. He is a policeman. So what? What should we do? Should I kill him? Or should he kill me? Of course, on one occasion he came to arrest me. And perhaps he is still obedient, but for how long? That is why we have no alternatives. We could begin a season of bloodshed. But first we must try to sit down and talk.

[Purgatori] When, Dr. al-Zahhar?

[Al-Zahhar] Soon. In a few weeks' time.

[Purgatori] So 'Arafat is ready to negotiate with Hamas?

[Al-Zahhar] Do not ask me. Ask him.

Hamas Statement Stresses Movement's Unity

TA0811160995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Muhsin al-Ifranji]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has said that its acceptance of the principle of dialogue with the Palestinian Authority is in natural harmony with its firm stance calling for the adoption of the language of dialogue and understanding instead of violence and confrontation.

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In a statement, Hamas expressed the hope that in view of the political differences in the Palestinian arena, the dialogue will result in laying down the foundations on which relations among the various parties will be established. It stressed that the aim of the nominal dialogue is to ease the Palestinian people's suffering in various spheres.

Hamas emphasized that it is an indivisible whole and that there is no inside or outside Hamas. It added that there is complete harmony between inside and outside on Hamas' stance regarding all issues, including the issue of dialogue, which has been endorsed by the movement's constitutional institutions.

Hamas renewed its opposition to the Oslo agreements and reiterated its stance on the elections and the continuation of struggle against the occupation. It said that it commits itself to nothing before a dialogue is launched. The date and venue of this dialogue has not been set yet.

In its statement, Hamas warned against malicious rumors and statements which are carried and propagated by some news media in a bid to sow confusion and distort positions.

Hamas Says 'Resistance' Activity To Increase

TA0711153395 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, QUDS PRESS — A senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official expects that the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will ease the pressure against the activity of the Palestinian resistance. Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official Hamas spokesman, pointed out that the coming period will witness noticeable activity by the Palestinian resistance. In a statement to QUDS PRESS, he added that Rabin had taken daily action against the Palestinian resistance factions by all political, media, and military means. Referring to last week's assassination of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, Ghawshah stressed that Rabin had recently transferred the battle against the Palestinian resistance outside the occupied territories.

In a related development, Ghawshah said that Rabin's assassination revealed the reality of Israeli society, which had been portrayed as a democratic and civilized society that does not believe in violence. He noted that the assassination proves that the Israelis are deeply split over the peace agreements signed between the PLO and the Rabin-led government.

Ghawshah expressed the belief that the agreements reached by Rabin with the Palestinian Authority have been greatly affected by his murder. He said there will be a serious impact on the agreements now that they have been placed on the back burner. He indicated that all Israeli efforts will be devoted to addressing the internal situation in Israel and mending the rift caused by the peace process.

Hamas Publication Surveys Case Against Abu-Marzuq

MM0711122995

[FBIS Editorial Report] The November issue of London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic carries on pages 22 and 23 a 2,000-word report by Dr. Ahmad Yusuf on the case of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq. The report says: "The case of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of Hamas Political Bureau, who is held in a U.S. jail in New York, is still shrouded in mystery and questions marks... [ellipsis as published] what are the reasons and motives behind replacing one judge with another who is known for his hostility toward Muslims?" The report deals at length with the Israeli bill of indictment, saying that it lists the operations carried out by Hamas as evidence against Abu-Marzuq as a political leader of the movement. The report says that a number of observers expect "the U.S. court not to take account of what is mentioned in the Israeli request because of the lack of physical evidence and Israel's reliance on confessions made by someone held in an Israeli jail. In such a case, Israel would have another opportunity such as it dreams of in order to secure a settlement with Hamas that would be acceptable to it, which could include a halt to military operations, laying down arms, and joining the march of the feeble peace process!!"

Authority Assumes West Bank Mail Responsibilities

JN0811160495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in the National Authority has assumed responsibility for postal services in the West Bank. The Israeli side handed over responsibility to the Palestinian side during a meeting held today at the headquarters of the occupation's civil administration in Ramallah.

The Palestinian side was represented by Bahjat al-Khalidi, director general of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, while the Israeli side was represented by postal officer Yitzhaq Laron.

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Correction to New Islamic Jihad Leader's Interview

JN0711150595

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "New Islamic Hihad Leader on Future Action," published in the 7 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 8:

Column one, make subslug read:...[Interview with Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah, new secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, by Chief Editor Fahd al-Rimawi in al-Yarmuk camp for Palestinian refugees in Damascus on 1 November]...(supplying place of interview)

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Algeria

France Issues Warrant for Arrest of GIA Member

LD0811193895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services in Chlef Province arrested the kidnappers of a nine-year-old pupil and succeeded in freeing the child.

In another development, the French justice issued an international arrest warrant against Abou Fares, one of the members of the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] who had been arrested recently in London. Paris considers Abou Fares as one of the main suspects involved in the explosions in France.

FFS Leader Downbeat on Sant' Egidio Meeting

LD0811191495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hocine Ait Ahmed, secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], admitted during an interview by Radio Beur in Paris that Sant' Egidio's meeting failed to make the Islamists honor the provisions of the Rome Contract.

According to "Le Soir d'Algerie," which reported the news, this was the first time one of the main signatories of the Rome Contract admitted the failure, and he is the secretary general of the FFS who recently defended the general aim of the Rome meeting.

Parties Broadcast Election Stances

LD0611194995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 6 November broadcasts a 30-minute election broadcast, during which several parties broadcast their election stances.

The first to speak is Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement [HAMAS]. During his 15-minute slot, Nahnah talks about economic issues and advocates economic efficiency. He mentions the blunders made in the past in the economic sphere. He promises an equitable distribution of resources.

The next to speak is Nourreddine Boukrouh, leader of the Party of Algerian Renewal. During his 5-minute slot, Boukrouh talks about the role of the army, which he says should be defined by the Constitution.

An unidentified representative from the Rally for Culture and Democracy then talks about the funeral today of a leader of the Socialist Forces Front. She condemns the violence and terrorism. She says that the problems of the Algerian people are a lack of development, housing, and unemployment. In conclusion, she calls on the Algerian people to vote for Said Sadi, the leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy. The representative is given a 10- minute slot.

Security Services Claim 13 'Terrorists' Killed

LD0711203895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services in a statement today said that their forces had killed 13 terrorists during various search operations. The operations took place in Algiers Province, Tipasa, Oran, and Blida.

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS0911103795 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 7 Nov 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The farce is rejected globally and in details!

Praise be to Allah.

In a week time the military Junta will be pushing Algeria to a point of no return that will makes it many folds harder to seek a non-military solution to the conflict. And may be this is what Allah has decreed to be the real way out for the Algerian people to regain their dignity and preserve it for longer knowing that it was not offered to them in a golden plate.

All nations whose people are today enjoying their natural rights to live in dignity had to pay for it one time or another during their history and most of time if not all of the time, dearly. In countries which respect their people, such thing as "throwing in the dustbin" the free popular choice by a handful of military men, will be unimaginable and if it ever did occur, the reaction of general resistance will be automatic. These people will surely fell that one of the most vital pillar of their modern society has been attacked and needs to be restored and protected.

What is more sad about the Muslim countries of today, is that the principal rules which assure an optimum level of Justice and civil liberties in a society, have been and still are theirs, in the first place, if only they could bother looking at their history or at their religion.

As time goes by and as the military Junta in Algeria unfold its macabre game, one can only increase the

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degree of disrespect, one thought the Junta had toward the Algerian people.

In recapitulating the Junta Algerian people confrontation it is to note that the people have made their free choice concerning who should represent them. A handful of military Generals did not agree with the choice of the millions of Algerians on the pretext that there were a lack of political maturity due to an absence of democracy traditions. The misery that resulted from the irresponsible act perpetrated by the regime against the free choice of the people, is well documented and is in the increase day after day. The Junta propaganda have always treated the level of violence reached in Algeria, as some kind of a bargaining chip and shows it when it suits and hide it when it does not. The Junta for example will most probably "turn off the lights" on the violence during the coming weeks if it can.

After four of the darkest years in modern Algeria, the same regime tell the people that now they are mature enough to chose, but always following the path of "cosmetic paternalism", the regime "recommend strongly" one of its Generals after making all the "necessary calculations" in order to make sure that "the Junta General is the people choice". So to simplify the situation and see more clearly, here is a regime which turned against the people, gave them four years of "hell" treatment, then comes without any decency and "ask them strongly" to sanction its passage from "illegitimacy" to "legitimacy" which is another form of agreeing that the coup d'etat "was indeed a good thing but unfortunately it took more 50,000 deaths for the people to understand because they lacked maturity". What an insult for the Algerian people intelligence and what a disrespect.

Those tempted to advocate that a legitimacy will be born out of this insulting farce, should know that the armed struggle is stronger than ever before in trying to "put some sense" in the the Junta's thick head and that this armed struggle has been going on four years before these so-called elections and that it will be going on probably harder during the so-called elections and after.

As far as the real issue and the real conflict is concerned in Algeria, these so-called elections are a non-event globally and in details and no "carrots" such as "legislative and local elections following very soon after" will makes them legal or legitimate.

It must be said before and after the coming farce, that recognising its outcome will amount of siding up with the Junta against its real opposition. The fact that the UN has send just six voluntary members who should stay in the capital as a gesture of support to the "principle of elections" not as an "act of witnessing their authenticity or fairness by the U.N", should always kept be in mind in international circles when dealing with the same regime under what it thinks to be a different costume.

Why is the French official news agency (AFP) actively supporting the "elections farce" and the candidacy of the military General?

When the highest officials in the French administration talk about some kind of a change in the French policy toward Algeria, one is strike by the form and content of most if not all the "wires" emanating from the official French news Agency AFP concerning the coming big farce ("elections") at the expense of the Algerian people. A war in the information front is waged against the Algerian opposition who have called for the boycott of this political manoeuvre so obvious that "it smells" disrespect to the Algerian people and an insult to their intelligence.

When one reads "news" from the AFP about Algeria one can only "see" negative emotions which make "partisan amateurism" substituting "disconnected professionalism". One can for example, read lines which may look banal but are full of insults aiming at diminishing the importance of the political opposition members of the "national contract". AFP qualify non-FIS members of this opposition as "those who have joined the FIS" to create an impression in the readers minds that those political parties have lost their specificity's and decided to melt in the FIS. When the AFP talk about the coming "electoral big circus", it does not forget to add that General Zeroual [whom it calls President unless there is a "micro-crisis" with the "metropole" than the title of General is put back on], is the favourite candidate as if the AFP itself has conducted opinion polls in Algeria. Each time the Algerian opposition reveals a part of the military Junta ugly face, the AFP will always be there to cover it with misleading suggestions in a hypocritical style as if it did not intend to take the Junta defense. The opposition is hardly given a fraction of the AFP space which most of it is taken by disinformation or amplifying the Junta propaganda coming via "the independent and private" Algerian press.

What explanation can one give to such biased attitude? Is it the consequence of the phenomena which makes "the wagons continuing in the same direction even after the locomotive has been changed"? Or is it due to the fact that the lobby for "the statu quo in Algeria" has such big tentacles that it does also manifest itself in the French media be it official? Or is the AFP section dealing with Algeria run by nostalgic of "L'Algerie de papa" or by those whose remuneration comes from more than one direction? It is hard to say, however what one can say is that the AFP attitude is confusing many

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who are finding that France is "emitting signals" about Algeria of a schizophrenic nature. On one end the sweet talk about helping the Algerian people and at the other, the unconditional support to the Junta in the media front particularly at these crucial moments.

The interests of a dictatorship under whatever costume and those of the Algerian people are mutually exclusive. This makes it impossible to have one feet on each side unless jumping and following the "direction of the wind" in which case "sweet talks" for the circumstances are of no value.

The French police investigations between a partisan sensational and a genuine search for the truth!

In four days exactly, the unsolved murder of Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui will be four months old already. The actual situation in France of the Muslims in general can not even allow a "public party" [partie civile] to be formed and which will seek the whole truth about the assassination of the Shaykh in his mosque. Those who are still deeply moved by the barbaric act, had only few French police declarations for an answer and which link this murder with the bomb attacks series that shook France this past months. The side who have ordered this murder and whose interests are enhanced by it, is well known, but what those who loved the shaykh and are after justice concerning this crime, want to know, is: "who pulled the trigger" as well as the whole chain of command in between be it continuous or not. Four months is a long time for a murder to be solved particularly with all the attractions and means it has received. So is the name of who pulled the trigger not known to the French police or it is not made public for a "sacrosanct raison d'etat"? What one is observing instead is a detrimental campaign against the Algerian Islamists in European countries, activated indirectly by the notorious KGB formed junta secret police "La S.M" [La Securite Militaire]. Each time a suspect is caught in France, "La S.M" will always be "around the corner" with a trolley full of "terrorists files" ready to help the French investigators. Unfortunately in most of the cases those "terrorists" are just Islamists opposing the military Junta by legal means. However the media handling of the investigation with an "overdose of sensational", makes it is hard to conclude that French officials are exclusively after those involved in last months bomb attacks in France. The French authorities thirst for intelligence concerning all that is related to Algeria is strong and even stronger for the Algerian opposition in general and the Islamists in particular, no matter how strictly legal this opposition is. One has the feeling that each sensational media campaign targeting what is called "laxism of some western countries vis a vis the Algerian Islamists" is meant to embarrass the said country in order to have free hand in studying the "who is who and does what" of the junta opposition. And there is no guaranty that the findings are not automatically shared with "La S.M" whose "files" are necessary for the French authorities puzzle assembling and this kind of collaboration is well beyond the declared "neutrality". It is to note that "La S.M" usually adds fictional "information" that if acted upon them by the French authorities will serve its interest. If a developed country can manipulate a small country as it wishes, it is not apparently the case in the intelligence domain where "La S.M" is making the French police do what itself have not access to; with or without the knowledge and/ or consent of the French.

The Junta has may be prematurely, already entered a phase of confrontation with the rest of the political parties, members of the "national contract". If the murder of Shaykh Abdelbaki Sharaoui has open the door, the assassination of M'barek Maahiou from the FFS leadership last Saturday in Algiers, is another confirmation. One can already read in some publications of "intelligence" nature, fantasies such as the "FLN network" in Europe being used by the Algerian Islamists for illegal activities because it is less guarded. It will not be long before one heard that Professor Jeansson is back in activity with his "suitcases" transporting "terrorists" funds.

In this crucial period where the military Junta is about to insult the Algerian people intelligence by a farce called "elections", many do think that some French authorities have another agenda behind what they called the "war against terrorism" and that it has to do with "muzzling" the Islamist voice not only in France which it has already been done long time ago, but in every country it can influence. When one listen to some French people talking about the subject it is as if hearing officials from the regime of Vichy making the same accusations and reproaches toward the British authorities about the presence of General De Gaulle in the very London and about his access to the very BBC on a certain 18 June 1940.

Maybe the regime of Vichy is gone but it may have left a legacy in the minds of some people who can not live fifty years without finding a race, an ethnic, a religious or a cultural group to persecute!.

News of Jihad and Mujahidin

Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS] commander [Amir] of western regions, has issue a series of five communiques all related to the face of "the elections".

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In the first communique, Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha makes an appeal to the Algerian people in which he says: "Your participation in the elections is only a instrument used by the Junta in power to extend its lifetime, causes more victims and aimed at accruing a false legitimacy and which does not have any relation what so ever with finding a solution to the crisis which is in front of us and which the nation wants with the participation of all its sincere sons. It is for the above that I advise you not to endorse those transgressors who wants to stay in power even if it is on the Algerian people's necks, by totally boycotting the elections." [end of communique]

In the second communique, Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha advice the Algerian people to stay home of the day of elections to avoid blind retaliation from the Junta forces as the Muhahidin are going to increase their activities during that day.

In the third communique, Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha invites the Algerian people not to participate in the "election campaign".

In the fourth communique, the commander of western regions invites the Algerian people not to materially help in these "elections".

In the fifth communique, Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha calles for "brother civil servant, brother teacher, brother employee..." not to take part in organising the "elections" because "it means taking part in organisating and witnessing a criminal maneuver" and "for this the Islamic Salvation Army will counter this operation with all the force and whatever the cost so don't stay on the way. Allah be witness we have informed."

Jihad operations

We don't like to "beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order the "grab" the right of the people to freely choose."

[Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ALI BELHADJ in "fas el kalam fi mouajahate dolm el hokam" ["The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers"]. page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992]

Oum Adroua: Four Mujahidin from the AIS have been encircled for a period of ten hours in the sector of Ouled Benyoucef and during which the Junta army has used heavy artillery. The Junta forces were composed of Junta soldiers, gendarmes, policemen and armed militia from Oum Adroua, Kharara and Ouled Fares. The Muhahidin gave a military lesson to the forces of darkness and shot two "Lynda" [ninja] soldiers, two from the Junta army. Six of the Junta soldiers were seriously wounded. Two brothers were killed, they are Youcef and Azzedine may Allah accept them as martyrs. The third Mujahid came out of the encirclement with the help of Allah.

Acharfa: The Mujahidin have shot a junta armed militia.

Oued Rhio: A Junta soldier and a Junta collaborator were shot in the city centre and during a day time.

A notorious Junta secret police by the name of "Hama Yahi" was shot.

Seven Junta soldiers were shot during an ambush set up by the Muhahidin in the locality of Ben Ziane.

After a Junta "combing" operation, a heavy crossfire took place between the Muhadidin and the force of darkness which lasted exactly one hour and thirty five minutes. The Junta soldiers were shot and brother Nadir was killed may Allah Accept him as a martyr. Before that another brother was killed, may Allah Accept Talha whose full name is Betahar Muamar as a Martyr.

In two other operations, a Junta gendarme and a Junta soldier were shot.

In a crossfire with the Junta army, the Muhahidin shot 11 Junta soldiers and three brothers were killed may Allah Accept them as Martyrs. They are: Brother Madani Miloud known as Saad, Khaouradj El Khemissi known as Tahar and Serfak Abdelkader known as Moussa.

A Junta secret police agent was shot.

Egypt

Islamic Group Warns Foreign Tourists To Leave

NC0911104395 Paris AFP in English
1033 GMT 9 November 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 9 (AFP)—The main Egyptian fundamentalist group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] warned foreign tourists to leave the country and claimed an attack against a train in a statement issued Thursday [9 November].

Nation Wins Security Council Membership for '96-97

NC0811184195 Cairo MENA in English
1755 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, Nov. 8 (MENA)—Egypt has won a non-permanent Security Council membership for the years 1996/97.

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The United Nations General Assembly early today elected Egypt which was nominated by the African group with a majority of 159 votes from a total of 177 countries participating in the polling.

Official Denies Nuclear Cooperation With Israel

NC0811141095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Hisham Fu'ad, the head of the Egyptian Nuclear Energy Authority, has denied there is any nuclear cooperation between Egypt and Israel.

He told MENA today that an Arab news agency report on the issue was completely untrue.

Mubarak, PRC Parliament Chairman Discuss Ties

NC0911113795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Qiao Shi, chairman of China's National People's Congress, has expressed happiness at meeting President Husni Mubarak today. He said they discussed the good relations between China and Egypt.

In a statement following his meeting with President Mubarak the Chinese official said Mubarak welcomed visits to Egypt by the Chinese president and prime minister whenever they want.

He expressed his country's great appreciation of the prominent role Egypt and President Mubarak are playing in the Middle East peace process.

Although the peace process faces problems occasionally, he said, it is continuing.

Asked for China's views on the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Qiao said: We always support the positions of the Arab countries, especially Egypt, on the various issues. We have excellent coordination regarding such issues.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur noted that the visit by the Chinese National People's Congress chairman is the first visit to Egypt by a chairman of a Chinese parliament in 40 years, that is, since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1956.

He said the visit reflects the depth of bilateral relations, especially in the parliamentary field.

He said that during the meting the Chinese guest expressed appreciation of President Mubarak's policy and President Mubarak expressed willingness to strengthen ties and establish foundations for close cooperation in every area.

The meeting, Surur added, covered bilateral issues and ways to promote them in every area.

Muslim Brotherhood's al-Banna Released on Bond

NC0811183895 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Southern Cairo prosecutor yesterday decided to release Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers Association and a candidate for the People's Assembly elections in the al-Darb al-Ahmar constituency. Public Prosecutor Bakri 'Abdallah ordered that al-Banna be released on a 500-pound bond. The security services arrested him and five of his supporters on charges of obstructing traffic!

Editorial Links Brotherhood to 'Terrorist' Groups

NC0911060295 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 2 Nov 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Brothers and Terrorism Are Two Sides of the Same Coin"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tentacles of the clandestine relations between the [Muslim] Brothers and terrorist groups both at home and abroad are coming to light every day. The honest Egyptian citizen stands confused between what the leaders of this banned group say in public and what they actually do in secret, recalling God's saying "Grievously odious is it in the sight of God that ye say that which ye do not" [Koranic verse].

The Egyptian citizen has not yet forgotten the Brothers' history of terrorism, whether before or after the 23 July 1952 revolution. When the Brothers' leaders were released in the 1970's, it was thought that they would lead lives as good citizens in a state that was at the time persistently heading toward democracy and a multiparty system. But they persisted with an awkward insistence on rallying their ranks once again, working underground, and reviving their outlawed group.

When the Brothers saw that the wave of democracy was high, they began to sing the praises of democracy and the multiparty system. Naturally no one believed them, not only because their entire history is against democracy, but also because—which is the most important—events have shown their lies and eagerness to change their colors and hide as much as they can. Events also proved that they establish secret links with terrorist groups both at home and abroad.

We were willing to forget that all the terrorist groups emerged from the robes of the Muslim Brothers, beginning with Sayyid Qutb in the 1960's and ending with Shukri Mustafa in the 1970's and those who followed

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their line in the 1980's and 1990's. However, developments have shown us that ignoring the Brothers' history of terrorism is the kind of negligence we should avoid.

Security authorities have discovered in past years that, after regrouping its ranks and refusing to incorporate itself into Egyptian political society, the banned Brothers group has begun to adopt a multi-directional strategy as part of the so-called empowerment plan.

The first direction: Establishing secret ties with terrorist groups and providing them with every possible support behind the facade of social solidarity with the detainees' families. This is despite their knowledge that a great share of the aid presented to these families goes to financing terrorist operations. Moreover, the banned Brothers groups tend to be generous in their aid to enable lavish spending on terrorist operations.

This explains to us why the Brothers' leaders have declined to strongly denounce terrorist acts. They are content with mere verbal denunciation of the terrorist crimes which they feel have great negative impact on the public in Egypt;

The second direction: Infiltrating trade unions, seeking to control them and devote their activities and funds to serving the goals of establishing ties between these trade unions and terrorist elements. An example of this is what happened with the Lawyers and Engineers unions and their success in infiltrating the Journalists Association in recent elections;

The third direction: Using the Brothers' international movement centers aoroad, whether in London, Bonn, or other European capitals in contacting fugitive terrorist leaders abroad, namely the terrorist Jihad Organization leaders. The case of the al-Suways group, which the security authorities have arrested recently, has unearthed that close relationship between the Brothers and the media center they set up in London. The case also unearthed the continuous contacts with fugitive terrorist Yasir Sirri, who resides in London, and the facilitating of the transmittal of his instructions to the jihad cadres at home; and

The fourth direction: Seeking to gain control of the People's Assembly elections to create for themselves, through their membership in parliament, a forced legitimacy that will enable them to distort our democratic experiment. All their preparations to run for the next People's Assembly elections as an organization have expressed their desire to show a fiscal and political force on the grounds that it is a major step in the empowerment plan they have been working on for many years.

The outlawed Brothers group has exploited the state's tolerance to rally its ranks, make itself a force able to propagate acts of subversion and terrorism and ideas hostile to the democratic regime, and act to compromise the country's and citizens' security.

The time has come for that group to choose between incorporation into our political and party system and a political and military confrontation that will not cease until we protect the people from its dangers and its conspiracies with terrorism and terrorists. The Brothers and terrorism, as events have shown, are two sides of the same coin.

Libya

'Last' UK Questions on IRA Connection Answered

MM0911121395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 95 pp 1,4

[Report by Khalil Matar: "Libya Answers London's Questions About Security"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York — Some diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Libya has given Britain its response to the questions presented recently by the British Government regarding Tripoli's involvement with the Irish Republican Army [IRA].

The sources said that, having studied these answers, the British Government will now — as promised — inform UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali that Libya "has done what was required" with regard to the Security Council resolutions which led to sanctions being imposed on it. This development comes at a time when Butrus-Ghali is meeting in Geneva with Libyan Ambassador in Tunis 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi to discuss developments in this matter.

Ambassador David Hannay, former British representative to the United Nations, informed Butrus-Ghali early this year that London had "still some questions, and to prove that there is no hidden political agenda, once Libya has answered our questions we will send you a letter to that effect."

After this message was conveyed by Butrus-Ghali to Libyan representative Ambassador Muhammad Abu-al-Qasim al-Zawi, both sides waited for Britain's questions, which were presented only some five weeks ago via the office of the UN secretary general, who happened to be away from New York, to Libyan Charge d'Affaires Ambassador 'Ali al-Muntasir, because al-Zawi was also away at the time; al- Muntasir, in turn, conveyed the questions to Libya.

Some UN circles involved in this issue have said that they find it strange that the questions were not

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transmitted via Cairo as in the past. They pointed to a series of statements to the effect that Libya had at some point refused to receive the questions via Dr. Usama al-Baz, first undersecretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, who was acting as a mediator in this matter, or that Britain had no need to act hurriedly.... And so on, until the questions were eventually received.

Meanwhile, Libya gave the necessary answers to the British Foreign Office at the beginning of last week during a visit by the head of the Libyan interest section in London, Khalifah Bazilia. London received the answers and said it would study them.

The questions, said to be the last, come after a long series of exchanges between Libya and Britain on Libya's relations with the IRA, an issue raised in the wake of U.S., British, and French moves accusing some Libyan nationals of involvement in blowing up the PanAm airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland and the demand that they should stand trial in the United States or Britain, after which sanctions were imposed on Libya for refusing to comply. In the meantime, some clauses were added to Security Council resolutions, indirectly making Libya's cooperation with Britain on this issue one of the conditions for lifting the sanctions.

However, should this issue be resolved within a few weeks, as is expected, two issues will remain, namely the French investigation regarding accusations about Libya's involvement in blowing up a French aircraft over West Africa, and the Lockerbie affair. If the French issue, which seems to be the simpler of the two, is resolved, some circles expect specific moves to be initiated for discussing the major issue, which may not be so easy to resolve. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Talks With Italy Begin in Tripoli

LD0911114395 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 9 Nov — A Libyan Arab-Italian round of talks was held here today to discuss prospects for developing bilateral cooperation in various spheres between the Great Jamahiriyah and Italy. Participating in the talks were Dr. Sa'id 'Abd-al-'Ati, assistant secretary general for the affairs of international cooperation at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, and the Italian delegation led by Roberto Nigido, director general of the Economic Department at the Italian Foreign Ministry. During the talks means of strengthening and developing bilateral relations in the economic, commercial, industrial, cultural, media, and tourism spheres will be discussed in a way that serves the common interests of the Great Jamahiriyah and Italy.

Morocco

Government Acknowledges Poor Economic Performance

LD0811220495 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Council of Government was held today under the chairmanship of Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. On the main points of this meeting, Driss Alaoui M'Daghri, communication minister and the government's official spokesman, had this to say:

[Begin M'Daghri recording] At today's cabinet meeting, Mohamed Kabbaj, the minister of finance and foreign investments, presented a report on the conditions in which the 1995 budget was implemented and the prospects of the financial law for the first six months of 1996. He said that the implementation of the 1995 budget had taken place in difficult circumstances due to the negative repercussions of the drought on the country's economic and social activities. In this respect, the main economic indicators showed negative developments due to numerous factors, including the cost of the bill for importing grains, the problems facing tourism, and the inability to benefit from the revenues of the fisheries accord [with the EU].

In his report, Mr. Kabbaj stressed the efforts made by the government and the measures it had taken to confront the effects of drought, while taking every precaution to preserve the country's financial balances, and emphasizing the need to take the necessary measures to return the budget deficit to a bearable level and face up to the current financial situation.

With a view to continuing the rationalization of public finances, reinforcing the economic balances, and providing the conditions for the development of private investments, Mr. Kabbaj presented to the Council of Government a series of possible measures aimed on the one hand, at returning the treasury deficit to a level compatible with the requirements of a sound and lasting growth and on the other, at developing and reviving the rural areas.

The council will resume its meeting next Friday to continue the discussion of the draft financial law in light of the suggestions and information included in the report submitted by the minister of finance and foreign investments. [end recording]

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Sudan

'Maximum Mobilization' Announced in Southern Darfur

EA0811221695 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The governor of the state of southern Darfur, Colonel Dr. Babikr Jabir Kaballo, has announced a state of maximum mobilization of all the citizens in the state in order to confront the aggression facing the country.

The matter came up during an extensive meeting held in the state's parliament where the country's security situation was discussed. It was decided that a higher council be established to mobilize for the Fath al-Akbar [great victory] Brigade, to be chaired by the governor and the speaker of the state parliament as his deputy.

It was also decided that mujahidin be prepared for joining the martyr Abduh Muhammad 'Ali Brigade which is set to leave for Khartoum on 12 November on its way to the operation zone.

The governor said that all government offices will be converted to operation rooms for the military and that the committee for the defense of the faith and the homeland in the state will prepare for a general mass mobilization so as to awaken the determination of the citizens and mobilize them for the Jihad.

Commander Says PDF Training 'Tens of Thousands'

EA0811190195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Nov 95

["Excerpt" of interview with staff Brigadier Muhammad Hasan al-Fadil, PDF commander, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Begin al-Fadil recording] We have tens of camps training thousands of combatants in all the states of Sudan. We have begun advanced training in all kinds of weapons and not only in personal arms. This will enable us to be of real assistance to the army and also enable us to use all kinds of weapons such as anti-aircraft weapons and anti-tank weapons.

We have declared a general mobilization of all sections of the Popular Defense Force [PDF] in the states.

Currently we have a great number of combatants from Darfur, Kordofan, eastern central and northern Sudan numbering thousands, who are on their way to the operation zones. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Turabi Interviewed on Current Issues

NC0811080095 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 3 Nov 95 pp 10, 17

[Interview with National Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi, by Jubran Tuwayni, at PAIC headquarters in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tuwayni] Dr. al-Turabi, what terms would you use to describe your character, your identity? What would you say about yourself?

[Al-Turabi] First, let me welcome you here among your kinfolk in this Arab country that penetrates so deep inside Africa. Welcome to this open, expansive Arab country. If you wish to draw readers' attention to my humble self, I will tell you that I come from some corner of Sudan. I roved through Sudan and wandered throughout the world. I acquired an education in many cultures. I carried my traditional culture from my own home and united it with contemporary culture. I saw how the world was making progress and becoming united by modern means of communication and transport. Hence I decided that my role should be played on this international stage.

[Tuwayni] Do you consider yourself a thinking man, a politician, an economist? You are regarded today as the 'allamah of Islam in the Arab world, Africa, even in the West. What description would best fit your character?

[Al-Turabi] I have sought knowledge in universities and in jails. I know that many scholars prefer to live in seclusion. But I prefer knowledge that is related to real work. I merge learning with life.

[Tuwayni] You are a man of learning, thought, and culture.

[Al-Turabi] And life.

[Tuwayni] You have said that you are not one of the most prominent Sudanese political figures. But people say you are the mastermind, in the most positive sense of the word, of the current Sudanese regime. Is this true?

[Al-Turabi] A regime that relies on the thinking of one man only is no good.

[Tuwayni] Are you one of the masterminds, then?

[Al-Turabi] In religious matters, I do not like one shaykh or one imam to decide upon everything.

[Tuwayni] Then you are one of the masterminds?

[Al-Turabi] Of course.

[Tuwayni] We know that many people in sensitive positions in Sudan, in the sensitive and important ministries for instance, are directly affiliated with you.

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[Al-Turabi] I hope my ideas will have an impact on modern Sudanese history.

[Tuwayni] Then it is true that you are directly concerned with the administration of the country's affairs.

[Al-Turabi] Yes, with the country's affairs and the affairs of the world around me.

[Tuwayni] You are the secretary general of the PAIC [Popular Arab and Islamic Conference]. What is the role of this conference?

[Al-Turabi] The conference convened in the wake of the Gulf crisis, which drew the attention of the entire Muslim world to the Arab region, where this crisis occurred.

[Tuwayni] Is the conference a substitute for the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC]?

[Al-Turabi] The OIC is a governmental organization. Do governments represent their populations? When our conference was founded, the governments concerned only thinly represented their people. For this reason nations need a public forum to meet face to face, exchange views frankly, and develop a consensus of views.

[Tuwayni] Hence the role of the conference is to represent the views of the Arab people? Or does it also represent the views of non-Arab nations?

[Al-Turabi] It represents all Muslim nations. First, because these nations cannot express their views in their countries and, second, because the whole world is drawing closer together. It behooves the Muslims as a single nation to meet and express their views.

[Tuwayni] Is the conference designed to forge a single pan-Islamic authority?

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Tuwayni] Is the conference now the pan-Islamic authority?

[Al-Turabi] No, not at all. I do not claim that this forum alone represents the world. It is a platform that represents freedom.

[Tuwayni] Your Eminence, we know Muslims are divided into Shiites and Sunnis. How can we speak of a unified pan-Islamic authority represented by the PAIC?

[Al-Turabi] I am speaking of the 20th century. The Shiite-Sunni disagreement occurred centuries ago. I do not accept that Muslim history should remain divided because of a disagreement that happened long ago. I am neither Shiite nor Sunni. I do not like sectarianism to begin with.

[Tuwayni] You are a Muslim.

[Al-Turabi] I am a Muslim.

[Tuwayni] You advocate Islamic unity.

[Al-Turabi] I advocate Islamic unity and the bypassing of sects, schools of jurisprudence, and nationalities.

[Tuwayni] You are advocating an Islamic-Islamic dialogue to unite Islam. How far have you reached in this dialogue within your conference? Do you believe you are making progress toward the unification of Islam?

[Al-Turabi] The Muslim masses are still hostage to their history of nationalities, sects, and schools of jurisprudence. They look to the past. In the PAIC we have liberated the Muslims from this attitude and kept them abreast of the flow of history. Our conference represents no particular sect, school of jurisprudence, or nationality.

[Tuwayni] Are you satisfied with the current Islamic-Islamic dialogue?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, the PAIC meets regularly.

[Tuwayni] Is Iran a member of the PAIC?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. Briefly, and because the PAIC was first convened to discuss the Gulf crisis, Iran thought it concerned the Arabs alone. But later Iran found that Muslims worldwide are represented in the PAIC.

[Tuwayni] What are the conditions for joining the PAIC?

[Al-Turabi] We do not set any conditions. We only tell people and political and cultural groups worldwide about the PAIC and invite them to join it.

[Tuwayni] Do you invite them as organizations or as governments? You said there are no governments in the PAIC.

[Al-Turabi] We invite them as figures, as organizations, as forces in the government, and as forces outside the government.

[Tuwayni] So states may be represented?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. PAIC meetings are attended by people occupying senior state positions.

[Tuwayni] Which states, sir?

[Al-Turabi] All Arab, Asian, and African states. Government officials here welcome them to their departments as state officials.

[Tuwayni] Can we say today that the PAIC is an Islamic rejectionist front?

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[Al-Turabi] We do not like horizontal conflicts between one group and another, one state and another. Nor do we like vertical conflicts between government and opposition. This is because we do not like to tear our limited energy apart. We sometimes extend invitations to the government and its opposition parties. They sit here and express their views.

[Tuwayni] We know, Sir, that the Arab countries went to peace talks. We know they are engaged in a dialogue with the West that is completely different from the dialogue or the policy you are advocating. Does the PAIC really represent all the trends that refuse to take the course the Arab governments are taking today?

[Al-Turabi] This is a free conference. I know that all the Arabs may reject [the course taken by Arab governments], but circumstances sometimes force governments to adopt positions ... [ellipsis as published]

[Tuwayni] How are decisions made in the PAIC?

[Al-Turabi] Freely, sometimes unanimously.

[Tuwayni] Does the PAIC make executive decisions?

[Al-Turabi] We are not an authority to order organizations to implement decisions.

[Tuwayni] So they are recommendations, not decisions?

[Al-Turabi] They are views that influence people and governments.

[Tuwayni] Where are the boundaries of the PAIC's world?

[Al-Turabi] It has no boundaries. It raises issues of relations between Muslims and Christians; it raises the issues of the world, the issues of Muslims in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and elsewhere.

[Tuwayni] Can we say that the PAIC concerns itself with the issues of Muslims worldwide—in Yugoslavia, Algeria, America, and elsewhere?

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Tuwayni] Does the PAIC have any direct contacts with the Islamic organizations in Yugoslavia now? What is its role in the Yugoslav war, for example?

[Al-Turabi] The PAIC extends invitations to these organizations and surrounds them with Islamic public opinion. Media come to us from all over the world.

[Tuwayni] Are you a party to the Yugoslav conflict?

[Al-Turabi] In Yugoslavia we supported the Muslims. In the Arab countries, for instance, we mediate between a government and an opposition engaging in a conflict on the national scene.

[Tuwayni] In Yugoslavia you supported the Muslims?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, we supported the Muslims.

[Tuwayni] So we can say that the PAIC sometimes interferes in regions that experience violence?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, yes.

[Tuwayni] So you believe in violence?

[Al-Turabi] No. Islam is a religion of peace. A Muslim never initiates aggression or violence but if hit by violence ....

[Tuwayni] He retaliates with violence.

[Al-Turabi] He is free to retaliate. He may forgive and forget if he finds no danger in doing so. But if he finds that all basic systems, values, and interests are threatened, he reacts to force with similar force.

[Tuwayni] This is the situation in Algeria today?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, indeed.

[Tuwayni] Your relationship with Algeria, is it with the government or with the Islamic currents?

[Al-Turabi] The PAIC worked to achieve accord between the existing Algerian regime and the Islamic Salvation Front.

[Tuwayni] How far have you gone in your efforts in this regard?

[Al-Turabi] At first it was difficult for us to reach the government but we reached it through a European mediator.

[Tuwayni] Who?

[Al-Turabi] France.

[Tuwayni] You are engaged in a dialogue with France. I believe you have special relations with France.

[Al-Turabi] Yes, yes.

[Tuwayni] You were educated in France.

[Al-Turabi] I was educated in France and I wanted to link France with Sudan.

[Tuwayni] What about America?

[Al-Turabi] Until recently I knew America as an open-minded country. But now it has mounted the horse of the superpower that wants to conquer the world. I do not like the world to be conquered.

[Tuwayni] While we are speaking about the United States, let me say this. Your name came up in the 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman case. What is your position on Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman and his case?

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[Al-Turabi] The U.S. judicial system is not fair. I have no doubts about this. It is not fair because the people who decide if the defendant is guilty or not guilty are ordinary citizens. The media also play their role.

[Tuwayni] Do I understand that you think Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman was not involved in the operations attributed to him?

[Al-Turabi] I met him at a conference in Pakistan. He is a blind man with a traditional education. I do not think he went to the United States to blow it up.

[Tuwayni] Are you for or against the bombings that occurred in the United States?

[Al-Turabi] I am against bombings, whether the perpetrators are U.S. citizens or foreigners.

[Tuwayni] Or Arabs?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, or Arabs. But it is more likely that the perpetrators were U.S. citizens.

[Tuwayni] You believe, then, that U.S. citizens were responsible for the bombings that took place in the United States.

[Al-Turabi] Of course. Take the Oklahoma City bombing for example. At first they thought it was the Arabs or Muslims who did it. Two days later it became clear that this was not true.

[Tuwayni] I am speaking specifically of New York and the 'Abd-al-Rahman case.

[Al-Turabi] I believe the charges against 'Abd-al-Rahman were not sufficient to convict him of a felony, because the main prosecution witness was a mercenary agent.

[Tuwayni] Is Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman a PAIC member?

[Al-Turabi] No.

[Tuwayni] Not even a member of the Shaykh 'Umar organization?

[Al-Turabi] No.

[Tuwayni] Does this mean that even his organization in the United States is not affiliated with ....

[Al-Turabi] Even his Egypt-based organization is not a member of the PAIC. That organization, which is fighting a clandestine battle of jihad against the Egyptian regime, does not attend PAIC meetings at all. But hundreds of journalists from all over the world attend its meetings and they testify that it has no hidden agenda.

[Tuwayni] Does this mean that the PAIC has no affiliated organization working against the Egyptian regime?

[Al-Turabi] Egyptian opposition groups operating in the open attend PAIC meetings. We call on all ruling political systems and opposition groups to....

[Tuwayni] Briefly, Your Eminence, you have ties with the Algerian regime, with the Algerian opposition, and with the Islamic stream.

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Tuwayni] Do you approve of the Islamic streams' actions, such as killing journalists?

[Al-Turabi] I certainly do not approve of the regime's action in initiating this violence. It was the regime that undermined democracy and is now initiating the violence. Those who retaliate are doing so with equal or even greater violence.

[Tuwayni] Those who bear the brunt of this violence are the journalists.

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Tuwayni] This is an attack on intellectuals. You are an intellectual.

[Al-Turabi] Among all revolutionary forces in the world, some people go to extremes. People can go to extremes in their nationalism, in their leftist attitudes, and also in jihad. When they respond to the party that began the aggression they use greater violence and assault even innocent people such as tourists and others.

[Tuwayni] Have you tried to talk to the Algerian Islamist opposition to convince it that killing journalists, that is, killing freedom of thought and expression, is unacceptable? Or have you failed to do so?

[Al-Turabi] It is difficult for us to meet with them unless the Algerian stage and the French stage are open to us. If this is done, we can contact them.

[Tuwayni] Has any member of Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] attended your PAIC meetings?

[Al-Turabi] FIS people usually attend our meetings. They are carrying out a resistance struggle and rebelling against a regime. They adhere to particular standards and do not commit excesses in their revolution against the regime that undermined democracy. There is another group called the Armed Islamic Group [GIA] the members of which were trained in Afghanistan and returned with a particular spirit. If the stage is open to us, we can contact this group.

[Tuwayni] Do you have any relationship with the GIA?

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[Al-Turabi] No.

[Tuwayni] Nowhere?

[Al-Turabi] Nowhere. If the doors are opened to us in Algeria and France, we will reach the GIA and perhaps, using the language of the Koran and Islam, we might persuade it to stop retaliating against aggression with aggression.

[Tuwayni] What is your relationship with Iran?

[Al-Turabi] It is an Islamic revolution with which we had ties before it achieved victory. You remember, perhaps, that there were demonstrations all over Sudan in support of this revolution even before Khomeyni, may his soul rest in peace, returned to Tehran.

[Tuwayni] Your Eminence, Iran advocates the establishment of Islamic republics with recognized borders. You go beyond the idea of a republic and advocate the establishment of an Islamic nation.

[Al-Turabi] This is an ideal.

[Tuwayni] The ideal, then, is an Arab and Islamic nation.

[Al-Turabi] Yes. We can begin with an Islamic republic in every country. These republics can later link up. Europe, which devastated the world with two great wars, is now forging a customs, military, and judicial union. It is even trying to have a united currency. It behooves the Muslims, then, to move gradually toward unity until the whole nation is united. We do not want to skip phases.

[Tuwayni] Your relationship with Iran, is it good or very good? How do you describe it?

[Al-Turabi] It is a good relationship.

[Tuwayni] Do you believe you and the Iranian Revolution follow the same path?

[Al-Turabi] We follow the same path as the Islamic Revolution's principles. As for how the Iranians turned these principles into actual policies, this concerns the Iranian homeland alone.

[Tuwayni] What is your relationship with Egypt?

[Al-Turabi] The Egyptian State?

[Tuwayni] No, Egyptian society.

[Al-Turabi] We call on all public forces in Egypt, those that govern and those that are outside government to join the PAIC.

[Tuwayni] Do the governing political forces in Egypt attend PAIC meetings?

[Al-Turabi] Generally the rulers do not attend PAIC meetings. They attended the first meeting. They were late for the second meeting. Now they send members of the ruling National Democratic Party who are not prominent in Egyptian political life.

[Tuwayni] How is your relationship with the Syrians?

[Al-Turabi] The same. We call on the Syrians to attend PAIC meetings.

[Tuwayni] What is your position on events in Bahrain?

[Al-Turabi] We do not involve ourselves in such conflicts. The PAIC sometimes recommends to its leaders to moderate the dialogue between Iraq and Iran, between north Yemen and south Yemen [as published].

[Tuwayni] You say you do not involve yourselves in any country's domestic strife. But if an Islamic stream in a country tries to become active, will you invite it to PAIC meetings?

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Tuwayni] Even if you do not interfere in any country's domestic conflicts?

[Al-Turabi] No. We try to prevent things from reaching the point where we will get involved. This is because Arab energy in such conflicts is feeble and most of the forces involved struggle against each other and collapse in minor conflicts among the Arab countries, forces, and even among families. We do not want to get involved.

[Tuwayni] Your Eminence, who finances the PAIC?

[Al-Turabi] We solicit contributions from all the participants. We also solicit contributions from Sudanese merchants although the country is poor. These merchants pay most of the expenses.

[Tuwayni] What can you tell me about the current status of the worldwide Islamic movement?

[Al-Turabi] It shows promise of a worldwide reawakening but it is also weighed down by tragedies and the foreign siege against it. I bear the tragedies of the Islamic and Arab world in my heart.

[Tuwayni] Do you think we are in decline?

[Al-Turabi] No, we are reappearing. We were in decline or slumber. We did not know where we were; we were collapsing every year. Now the reawakening is affecting us all.

[Tuwayni] A reawakening but not a renaissance?

[Al-Turabi] The signs of renaissance are already apparent. This is why those who wish to maintain the status quo are alert to us and this is why there is great hardship in the Islamic world.

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[Tuwayni] Who are the enemies of Islam—governments or the West?

[Al-Turabi] It is difficult for me to accuse the entire West of enmity toward Islam. Some people in the West have freed themselves of crusader fanaticism, which at any rate was colonialist in nature and had nothing to do with Christianity. These people have freed themselves of the colonialist spirit and hardline attitudes to countries fighting for independence.

[Tuwayni] Crusader fanaticism has had dealings with Islam, cooperating with it against the Byzantine Empire for example.

[Al-Turabi] Crusader fanaticism was not meant to defend Christianity to begin with. It was a colonialist onslaught against the Middle East, and, because the peoples of the Middle East were Christian in those days, they sought to mobilize them and use them in the war. Those who led the war were not men of religion. They were early colonialists. Later, religion in the West grew weaker. They forgot all about the cross and openly invaded the Islamic world to colonize it.

[Tuwayni] What is the solution in your opinion? On what foundations should the dialogue between Islam and the West be based?

[Al-Turabi] The Islamic world needs to reach the peoples of the West. They are free nations generally. Even if they are under pressure from powers who want them to be hostile to Islam for the sake of particular interests, the Islamic world can still reach them. We are closer to Christianity than the modern Western world itself. Christianity has been present in Islamic traditions since Abraham. We are more able than Westerners to carry out a dialogue, because we know Western history but they do not know much about us.

[Tuwayni] What are the conditions for a dialogue between Islam and the West?

[Al-Turabi] First, we must properly utilize our debating powers, because God calls us to account and urges us to have a dialogue with others. If we have a dialogue with popular forces in the West, they will influence their countries' policies and the spirit of East-West global conflict will be calmed. We do not want Islam to fuel a new spirit of conflict between the North and the South.

[Tuwayni] Does this mean you do not see yourself at war with the West?

[Al-Turabi] Not exactly. If the West attacks us, we will carry out jihad in self-defense.

[Tuwayni] The situation is not exactly like that today.

[Al-Turabi] The Muslims can do much if they act but today they are in a servile state.

[Tuwayni] What is your wish then? Are you calling for an Islamic revolution against the West?

[Al-Turabi] I urge the Muslims to carry out an Islamic revolution against their own conditions, their past, and their current decline.

[Tuwayni] How?

[Al-Turabi] I urge them to wake up.

[Tuwayni] Your Eminence, against whom will this Islamic revolution you advocate be directed?

[Al-Turabi] First, against the Muslim's historical decline and subjugation to the West.

[Tuwayni] Why the decline?

[Al-Turabi] A historical collapse in the Islamic world.

[Tuwayni] And the revolution?

[Al-Turabi] The revolution is to mobilize the Islamic peoples.

[Tuwayni] How?

[Al-Turabi] A complete cultural mobilization, not a political one seeking to overthrow the rule of another ruler. Culture, arts, economy, politics—all must be involved. So when we talk to the West, we offer it not only argument, but a picture of what Islam is all about. Then the West can hold a dialogue with this full picture and this argument.

[Tuwayni] Where do you stand as far as the Vatican and the Islamic-Christian dialogue are concerned?

[Al-Turabi] Strangely, I found no difficulty in the dialogue with the Vatican, because it is the closest to religion in the West. I visited the Vatican and spoke with the cardinals and with the pope. The pope visited this country and found the picture different from that drawn for him.

[Tuwayni] He saw churches here.

[Al-Turabi] People — Muslims and Christians — welcomed him in the streets.

[Tuwayni] So you think sectarian pluralism does not conflict with the call for a unified Islamic nation?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. I do not even believe in sectarian pluralism, even among Christians themselves. Jesus was not a Catholic, an Orthodox, or a Protestant. But this is how people are. People always go back to history when a conflict between two takes place.

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[Tuwayni] How do you view the Islamic-Christian dialogue? How do you view the role of Christians in the Arab world, for example?

[Al-Turabi] Jesus, may God's peace be upon him, came to correct some fallacies introduced by the Jews. But he came for all humanity, not only the Israelites; he came for life, not only life inside the church. But the struggle between the church and the state, between the church and scientists, between the church and the artists, and between the church and the bourgeoisie alienated the church, isolated it, and closed the door on it.

[Tuwayni] Are you calling on the church to return to people's daily life?

[Al-Turabi] I call on religion to do that.

[Tuwayni] Which religion?

[Al-Turabi] The spirit of religiousness, the spirit of slavery to God, the spirit of love of God, of fear of God.

[Tuwayni] So there is no difference between Islam and Christianity?

[Al-Turabi] Basically there is no difference. The creed has always been the same since Abraham, be it Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. We do not like to be called Muhammadans.

[Tuwayni] But let us talk in real terms. What is the role of Christians in the Arab world?

[Al-Turabi] They are closer to Muslims because they live among Muslims.

[Tuwayni] But our friend (Libyan leader) Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for example, calls on them to become Muslims.

[Al-Turabi] You are entitled to call on me to become Christian and I am entitled to call on you to become Muslim.

[Tuwayni] So do you consider yourself closer to recognizing Christianity and its role in this Arab region or are you calling for religious unity, that is, for Christians to be melded into Islam?

[Al-Turabi] I consider Christian Arabs closer to me. Our culture and language are the same. We are close to each other and we do not suspect each other.

[Tuwayni] You did not answer my question.

[Al-Turabi] I want them to tell the colonialists what Islam means.

[Tuwayni] So you recognize the role of Christians as a link between the West and the Arabs?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. But the dialogue between us and them is over the message of Muhammad and the message of Jesus.

[Tuwayni] But you are not calling on them to abandon their religion, for instance?

[Al-Turabi] Of course not. How can I do that? The basics of religion are the same.

[Tuwayni] So you are not calling on them to leave their religion?

[Al-Turabi] I do not call on them to leave the basics of religion.

[Tuwayni] But, Sir, His Beatitude Orthodox Patriarch Egnathius IV Hazim would say in a dialogue of this sort that the Christians existed first in the Arab world, before the Islamic conquests. If the patriarch invites you to such a dialogue and says, for example, that you should return to Christianity, what will you say?

[Al-Turabi] I accept dialogue with him. If my heart and mind are convinced by his argument, I will leave [Islam] and enter with him [into his religion]. If his heart and mind are convinced, he should enter [Islam] with me.

[Tuwayni] And if each one sticks to his views?

[Al-Turabi] Then we reconcile ourselves and adhere to our common values.

[Tuwayni] So you reject this religious dialogue turning into a military conflict?

[Al-Turabi] I fully reject this, especially as the common values between Muslims and Christians today are great. With these values, we can form a unified front. I called on all Christian sects to join us in a unified religious front.

[Tuwayni] So you are against the use of force?

[Al-Turabi] Force cannot be used to get people to enter a religion. If I use force the most I can expect is hypocrisy, because the people will fear me.

[Tuwayni] What system will be applied in the Islamic nation you are calling for and where will its border lie?

[Al-Turabi] Things move. Nations do not know borders as you know them. Land is the same, media are the same, as you see.

[Tuwayni] What system will be applied? And how will the Islamic nation be embodied in the West, for example?

[Al-Turabi] The system of religion is the same. In Islam, God is one and the same. Men of the church and men of religion do not separate me from God. Our links

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with God are the same links. Call it the democracy of religion, if you like.

[Tuwayni] Do you think the border of the Islamic nation can reach the United States, for example?

[Al-Turabi] Of course.

[Tuwayni] We recently saw a demonstration in the United States that included between 0.5 million and 1 million Muslims.

[Al-Turabi] These are the Africans. They entered America as slaves, not immigrants. The West still looks at them through the color perspective.

[Tuwayni] Do you urge them, for example, to establish a sort of independence?

[Al-Turabi] No, no. They must obey U.S. laws. We urge the U.S. majority to give them liberty and justice just as we give liberty and justice to the Christians among us and to all adherents of heavenly religions.

[Tuwayni] What is your attitude to women, democratic ideas, and the role of cultures?

[Al-Turabi] God does not speak to men alone. He speaks to humans. On Judgment Day, God will judge everyone, not only men. A woman is responsible for her actions just like a man.

[Tuwayni] Does she have equal rights?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. She is ordered to promote virtue and to suppress vice. She has political and financial rights just like a man. They are partners in building a family.

[Tuwayni] Does a woman have responsibilities within the family only or in everyday activities, including politics?

[Al-Turabi] In every sphere. She can fight to defend her homeland and pursue a career in economics, politics, science, the arts, and any walk of life.

[Tuwayni] You tell us you believe in science and consider it a basic factor today. Do you recognize technology or do you think it merely a facet of the Western world?

[Al-Turabi] My honorable brother, all knowledge must come from religion. I regret that the West has separated science from religion. It was the Muslims who first developed the sciences, such as architecture and medicine, and then taught them to the West. The West separated science from religion. This is not a healthy attitude. In my view colleges of architecture, medicine, or shari'ah are all religious colleges.

[Tuwayni] Then you believe there is no conflict between technology and religion?

[Al-Turabi] Not at all.

[Tuwayni] Including astronomy and traveling to the moon?

[Al-Turabi] We must try to learn all the laws that God revealed in the holy scriptures about the stars, the earth, and the plants. We must try to learn them and use them for the good of humanity.

[Tuwayni] This means you support the exploration of the universe, space sciences, and perhaps the discovery of other life forms in the universe?

[Al-Turabi] Certainly. How did the Arabs become world leaders in science at one time? Through religion. Before religion they were an ignorant, servile nation. Through religion they rose to reach the frontiers of knowledge in philosophy, medicine, astronomy, algebra, and other mathematical disciplines.

[Tuwayni] You have played a major role in bringing the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the PLO close together. A Hamas delegation from the Palestinian territories arrived in Khartoum a few days ago to hold talks with Hamas leaders in Khartoum. What role do you play in this dialogue?

[Al-Turabi] I have known (Palestinian leader) Yasir 'Arafat since before there was a Hamas movement. To avert Palestinian infighting, to prevent the media from focusing attention on this infighting, and to prevent the world from forgetting the Palestinian prisoners and the Palestinian issue, we invited them here to talk. They reached an agreement even before the Oslo accord was concluded. The Oslo accord spoiled the initial PLO-Hamas detente.

[Tuwayni] They are talking to each other again.

[Al-Turabi] The two sides have agreed to talk again. We plan to invite them to Sudan for further dialogue. How can you avert a conflict if Hamas clings to its rejection of Israel and seeks an Islamic government while brother Yasir 'Arafat accepts the Oslo accord?

[Tuwayni] This means you urge Hamas to interact with and cooperate with the PLO in the West Bank?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, within the limits of their political differences and in a context that will prevent conflict between them.

[Tuwayni] Are you urging Hamas to join the PLO in a single government?

[Al-Turabi] If they so wish.

[Tuwayni] What do you think about that?

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[Al-Turabi] The Islamic stream has been present in Palestine since before 1948. It has the right to express its views under any name and in any form.

[Tuwayni] What if the PLO stipulates that Hamas must lay down its weapons as a condition for allowing it to participate in the dialogue and the government?

[Al-Turabi] What I urge is that no armed fighting should occur between the PLO and Hamas.

[Tuwayni] Do you favor the use of weapons against Israel?

[Al-Turabi] My honorable brother, I am merely a mediator. It is good for me to be a mediator bringing the two parties together but not to judge between them. I am not a judge.

[Tuwayni] Do you wish Hamas would lay down the weapons it now uses against Israel to enter the negotiations alongside the PLO?

[Al-Turabi] Israel is found in arenas other than those in which Yasir 'Arafat is present. Hamas can, if it wishes, continue its jihad against Israel, which has committed aggression against Palestinian land.

[Tuwayni] Do you mean jihad that is not carried out from inside the Palestinian self-rule areas?

[Al-Turabi] If Hamas carries out jihad from the areas administered by 'Arafat and the Palestinian police, this will necessarily mean war among the Palestinians themselves.

[Tuwayni] Which of the Islamic groups in Lebanon has ties with you?

[Al-Turabi] All of them, including the Islamic Group, which is long-standing in the Islamic stream in Tripoli. We also have relations with Hizballah.

[Tuwayni] You financed a university in Tripoli as well, did you not?

[Al-Turabi] The Islamic university in Sudan has connections with a university there, which has become one of its branches (al-Jinan University).

[Tuwayni] Are your relations with Hizballah of a direct nature?

[Al-Turabi] Yes.

[Tuwayni] On what level?

[Al-Turabi] All levels.

[Tuwayni] Do you support Hizballah's political movement in Lebanon?

[Al-Turabi] Of course; we support all the political movements in Lebanon.

[Tuwayni] Even if these movements conflict with the State's central policy?

[Al-Turabi] Having differences with the central policy is permissible of course. But I do not wish for Lebanon to face the setback of an armed struggle among its sects and groups. If people differ, the views of the majority should govern. People holding a different view may continue to criticize until they win public opinion over to their side.

[Tuwayni] As far as peace with Israel is concerned, what is your position on the ongoing peace negotiations?

[Al-Turabi] I know that Arabs share the same feelings, whether the people are allowed to express their true feelings toward Israel or not. But the rulers, who are a necessity in this world, come under pressure and experience particular circumstances. They almost compete for peace with Israel according to whatever terms the world order dictates. Although Sudan is far from that and has not involved itself in this necessity, it still sticks to the basics of the unanimously agreed-upon position in the Arab nation.

[Tuwayni] Does this mean that you cannot recognize the State of Israel?

[Al-Turabi] No, I do not recognize the State of Israel.

[Tuwayni] Is there no possibility?

[Al-Turabi] No, I am telling you that it is logically impossible.

[Tuwayni] What are the terms for recognizing Israel?

[Al-Turabi] They are not terms. The State of Israel is a Jewish Israeli state where there is no place for a Muslim or an Arab. They do not want to restore the Arab role, because they do not want the Arabs to multiply, proliferate, and defeat them by the rule of democracy. They do not even believe in Western democracy. Theirs is an Israeli, Zionist, ethnic fanaticism.

[Tuwayni] Do you believe the Arab world is in for new wars, new maps, and a new Sykes-Picot, or do you think the Arab regimes will maintain their borders?

[Al-Turabi] Whenever I think that they (the Arabs) have reached the bottom, I find them falling further. This fall to the bottom, this shock, may make them realize they have one language.

[Tuwayni] Do you think we will see changed borders and changed regimes with the signing of peace treaties?

[Al-Turabi] With Israel?

[Tuwayni] Yes.

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[Al-Turabi] Why this race toward Israel? Why do we not race toward each other?

[Tuwayni] If all the Arabs sign agreements with Israel, what will your position be?

[Al-Turabi] We do not talk with each other. Even those who engage in dialogue among us, the neighbors, the sons of pan-Arabism, and the followers of the same religion, fight each other and race toward Israel. I do not know if Israel wants Arabs to approach it and proliferate around it. I do not know if its economic interests would welcome any Arab market opening up for the commodities of its neighbors.

[Tuwayni] Your Eminence, if all the Arabs sign with Israel, will you not recognize Israel or sign a treaty with it?

[Al-Turabi] We will not be obliged to do that, unless Arabs say they will not recognize anyone who does not recognize Israel.

[Tuwayni] Your position is closer to Iran's, is it not?

[Al-Turabi] No, I am talking about the position of Arab states, so that you do not affiliate me with Iran or a remote country. So that you do not estrange me from the Arabs, because I am black or because I am closer to orthodox Islam, ask the Arabs, ask the Arab people if they believe in democracy or in the shura [consultation] principle in their religion. Did 'Isa come to appoint leaders to rule us, or did Muhammad appoint sacred leaderships?

[Tuwayni] You do not think Arab regimes are democratic, do you?

[Al-Turabi] This is common knowledge, my kind brother. Do not ask me that question.

[Tuwayni] Does this apply to your ally Iraq, your old ally in the war, which has renewed Saddam Husayn's term in office with a 99-percent vote?

[Al-Turabi] Why should we blame our ally Iraq? We did not reach Iraq because it is the country of democracy we admire, but because it is an Arab country isolated from the rest of the Arabs; it was isolated because it made strides in armament, in technology. It was attacked and deprived of food. I do not accept this, even for animals.

[Tuwayni] Relations with the Gulf states are still not good.

[Al-Turabi] Relations are developing. Do you not know that Qatar is now investing in oil in Sudan? I wish the Arabs would come here and use their money to invest in our oil.

[Tuwayni] Is there a final word you would like to address to the Lebanese and the Arabs?

[Al-Turabi] I will start with the Lebanese. I knew Lebanon when it was open to the Arabs, who could go there without entry visas. We would go to Lebanon when we wanted to convene a conference or publish a book. Lebanon always welcomed us. This was useful for the people of Lebanon and it helped the country economically, because the Arabs went there with their money and views. Lebanon benefited from its openness to the Arabs. Then we saw what happened in Lebanon. I regret to say that some Arabs planted sedition in Lebanon; so Lebanon exploded with sedition. I hope the people of Lebanon will reestablish peace among themselves so that their country will serve as a symbol for the Arabs and so that the West can see an Arab country free in its government, in its press, and in its publications, a country developing greatly despite its limited economic capabilities.

[Tuwayni] Do you believe, Sir, in the democratic experience [of Lebanon], where the state has no religion and where different sects coexist?

[Al-Turabi] If you agree with that, fine. I accept for you anything you accept for yourselves. Now, my word to the Arabs: Whenever I imagine myself living away from the Arabs and looking at them from a distance, say from Latin America or East Asia, I see that their position in the world is low. If the Arabs realize it, they will unite their forces to upgrade their status. But they are divided now. What is the policy of the Arabs now? No one knows. Arab nationalism has emerged among them now and they are not aware of what is happening in the world; they have no policy, unity, or place in the world. They know that those who colonized them and divided them yesterday want them to remain under their feet. I wish the Arabs would unite themselves first and decide what course they should take in politics, economy, culture, civilization, and history. The Arabs, even when they were illiterate and low in pre- Islam times, assumed a great place, as we know. The Arabs now carry the messages of all religions. From where did Christianity go to Western Europe? From here. It is from here that Judaism and Islam were sent to the world. The Arabs are the bearers of the divine messages. I wish they would rise up. That would deliver the good tidings of the awakening of Islam, the awakening of Christianity as a religion, not just an identity without religion.

In the original West they had no religion, no morality, and no belief in God or Jesus.

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Minister on Neighbors, South, Road Project

MM0911121095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat by Muhammad Sa'id al-Hasan in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Hasan] An official statement issued on Sunday, 29 October 1995, announced that a division from the Ugandan Forces had attacked Sudanese villages on the border, using Sudanese rebels as guides. And that Sudanese forces were confronting them and the fighting was continuing. Does that means that relations with Uganda has moved to the stage of war?

[Sabdarat] The recent fighting on the Sudanese-Ugandan border was prompted by the fact that the Ugandan Government is facing problems which have worsened so badly as to compel it to conclude a secret deal and another, declared deal with some of the remnant rebel factions, for two reasons: First, Uganda believes that Sudanese forces have been able to defeat rebel forces throughout the southern areas and to recapture from Garang all positions, cities, and villages. All that remains is some areas situated on the border between the two countries. So it believes that the Sudanese forces' arrival in and recapture of these areas would mean communication between Muslim north Uganda and Sudan — which would increase problems for it. But such an idea does not exist in our calculations, because the issue of the regime in Uganda is the Ugandan people's business.

Second, as far as we are concerned, Ugandan President Museveni is a tool for foreign interference. He believes that his mission vis- a-vis Sudan means guaranteed money in the bank. Whenever he declares hostile stands toward Sudan, and reinforces them with measures, as is happening now, and attacks Sudanese villages, it automatically means gains and benefits in the form of payments. Thus we believe that Uganda's decision to turn the conflict from diplomatic and informational action hostile to Sudan into military skirmishes is a losing one, because those who defend the land are different from those who attack it.

[Al-Hasan] What is the situation with Ethiopia after it expelled a number of Sudanese living in Ethiopia, forcing them to walk to the border, in addition to the John Garang movement's request to set up training camps in Ethiopia?

[Sabdarat] The Ethiopian regime is pursuing the same policy pursued by the regime in Uganda. It too believes that Sudan means guaranteed money in the bank. The more hostile stands toward Sudan it adopts, the more payments it gets. We would like to stress to both of them — that is, Uganda and Ethiopia — that they will get nothing. It is enough to remind them that the Palestinian Authority, for which billions were pledged, has received nothing. We tell Ethiopia that the best thing is dialogue, because Sudan and Ethiopia represent an extension of history and common interests. And Sudan represents a strategic rear with which hostility should be avoided. We hope that they will become prudent and view this eternal relationship objectively.

[Al-Hasan] What is the situation with Eritrea?

[Sabdarat] Its latest position toward Sudan is [President] Isaias Afwerki's statement to the London magazine THE ECONOMIST, namely his willingness to topple the Sudanese regime. We tell him that he could not topple the Mengistu regime in the past, so how can he topple the regime in Sudan. We continue to adhere to the link with Eritrea, which we want to be strong. Afwerki should not forget in the midst of his rush for dollars and foreign aid the importance of relations between Sudan and Eritrea and the importance of communication between the two peoples through a policy of good- neighborliness, not an atmosphere of hostility and threats.

[Al-Hasan] What is the status of relations with Egypt?

[Sabdarat] With regard to Egypt, there is nothing except the fact that the (disputed) Hala'ib territory is daily experiencing a reality different from that which it has experienced over its long history. There is nothing left except to replace the traditional "pin" used by its known tribes with the Egyptian "comb," which I believe would be difficult to adapt to.

[Al-Hasan] Why did Libya deport Sudanese workers despite the cordial relations with Sudan?

[Sabdarat] We cannot dictate to Libya something it does not want. It has its own territory and sovereignty.

[Al-Hasan] Reports indicate that the fighting has resumed in Somalia. What is Sudan's position on what happening there?

[Sabdarat] Sudan is bound to the Somali people by historic bonds and ties. We view what is happening there with profound sadness. We support Somali unity for the sake of Somalia, peace, and the achievement of full stability in order to develop Somalia and restore to it its role and influence internally, regionally, and internationally.

[Al-Hasan] Has a breakthrough been achieved in relations with the United States?

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[Sabdarat] The United States is a superpower, and Sudan cannot be hostile toward it. But the United States has on several occasions announced openly and in practice that it is against the Islamic orientation in Sudan.

[Al-Hasan] What is the status of conditions in the south?

[Sabdarat] Conditions in the south are completely stable. The main issue preoccupying us now is building peace from within. Now that state of war has ended, the southern provinces are currently working on reconstruction and development through a federal system, focusing efforts on providing services. Security has now been established in all southern areas and provinces, except the border strip between Sudan and Uganda.

[Al-Hasan] How does Sudan view the initiative of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, vis- a-vis uniting Arab ranks?

[Sabdarat] Sudan responded immediately to Shaykh Zayid's initiative, as the Sudanese Council of Ministers announced its full support for the initiative to mend the Arab rift. The initiative is a courageous and necessary step which comes at a delicate time. We are for solidarity and for uniting Arab ranks. We have never been a party to any inter-Arab conflict, nor will we be. We have always welcomed any Arab rapprochement, because it bolsters Arab ranks. And we hope that every bilateral Arab rapprochement will be a prelude to Arab solidarity and unity.

[Al-Hasan] It was announced recently that the country's longest road, costing over $120 million, will be built in west Sudan. Can the state achieve that despite the difficult economic conditions?

[Sabdarat] I would like first to point out that the situation in the provinces differs from that in the capital, as the provinces are aware of the need to mobilize all their energies and capabilities to achieve their reconstruction, development, and service projects. We witnessed extraordinary efforts during a recent tour of Kordofan and Darfur. For example, al-Junaynah province, west of Darfur, is building 10 buildings, namely six provincial ministries, a government building, a hospitality house, t workers' accommodations, plus a building for the television and another for agriculture. All this is happening at the same time.

This is why it is not strange for the provinces of that region to hasten to use people's contributions, allocating 50 percent of its sugar quota, estimated at $60 million, in addition to $12 million from provincial governments at the rate of $100 million a month for two years, for the road, which will be 1,205 km long, the longest in Sudan. It will link Dadfur with Kordofan and al-Junaynah with Chad, Niger, and Mali in west Africa. This huge project relies on people's resources and efforts. A higher committee has been set up for it, headed by the first vice president and the competent ministers, in order to mobilize all efforts and people's resources in order to execute the project, because it is vital and necessary for Sudan.

Tunisia

Kuwait Reassured on Iraqi Sanctions Position

LD0811212095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1956 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 8 Nov (KUNA) — Walid al-Khubayzi, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tunisia, met Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya here today, and discussed relations and bilateral cooperation between Tunisia and the State of Kuwait and ways to develop them.

After the meeting, al-Khubayzi told KUNA that Ben Yahya had reiterated his country's firm stand toward the resolutions of international legitimacy, and stressed the need for their implementation in order to bring about peace in the Arabian Gulf region.

He added that Ben Yahya entrusted him with a message for Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, "concerning bilateral relations between the two countries and Tunisia's firm stand toward the UN Security Council resolutions and the need for the Iraqi regime to implement them for the sake of peace and security and in order to end the suffering of the Iraqi people."

He further said that he had expressed to the Tunisian minister his thanks for the efforts made by Tunisia that are aimed at securing the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees.

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Qatar

Cabinet Denounces 'Aggression' Against Sudan

JN0811131795 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Doha, 8 Nov (WAKH) — Qatar today denounced the latest acts of aggression against southern Sudan. It called for maintaining Sudan's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. This came in a meeting the Qatari Council of Ministers held today under His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani.

In statements following the meeting, Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalid Al Thani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that the amir of Qatar briefed the cabinet on a letter he received from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, and on a message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Arab League Secretary General

JN0411113195 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 4 Nov (WAKH) Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani received in Doha today Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is visiting Qatar.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid and the Qatari amir reviewed the most significant Arab developments and exchanged views on the best ways of achieving Arab reconciliation, reestablishing Arab solidarity, and coordinating positions among Arab League members on the challenges posed to the Arab nation.

Saudi Arabia

British Foreign Minister Rifkind Concludes Visit

Meets Counterpart, Media

LD0711213895 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, met today with His Excellency Malcolm Rifkind, the British foreign secretary.

Rifkind, described relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Britain as special and unique. He added that there was a complementarity between the two countries which was apparent in numerous areas through the establishment of dynamic business affairs.

In an address to British businessmen in Jeddah today, he said that the two countries had identical views about many issues, namely the strategic issues concerning the Arabian Gulf, the Middle East, and the international situation.

He also talked about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: "Concern has been expressed about the situation there not only by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but also by the entire Islamic world.

He highlighted his country's efforts to achieve peace in Bosnia and indicated that the British Government had made great humanitarian achievements, in addition to holding an international conference in London at the invitation of the British Prime Minister John Major, which led to the creation of the Rapid Reaction Force by Britain and France. He added that this force has a great impact at the military level as it gives credibility to the UN presence there. [passage omitted]

Rifkind also talked about the economic situation in Britain and said that the government had taken numerous strategic decisions in the 1980's and early 1990's with a view to achieving long-term profitability for the British economy. [passage omitted]

His excellency then held a press conference at which he described his talks with Saudi officials as good, saying they had centered on many issues, particularly those of importance at the moment. Foremost were the core issues common to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in addition to the continuous threats from Iraq.

The foreign secretary added that the talks also covered the peace process in the Middle East, saying that there was a great desire to continue the process and not to harm it following the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Rabin. He indicated that the peace process was continuing and would not be affected by this.

He further said: "We also discussed bilateral relations between the two countries." He described them as "excellent and warm" and said that they were characterized by mutual understanding and joint cooperation with regard to commercial and industrial matters. He added that he would visit Syria and Lebanon during his current tour and that he would like to know the position of these two countries. He also stressed that his country encouraged all the states in the region to come up with a comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

As regards the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the peace process and its role in this process, the British secretary of state said: "I cannot speak on behalf of the Saudi Government because they speak for themselves. However, the clear and unambiguous

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impression I got, not only on this occasion but also on other occasions, is that the Saudi Government believes in the peace process and wishes to see good developments of a constructive nature and is looking forward to the day when a just solution to this problem is found. I believe that the position of the Saudi Government is on the side of a moderate, progressive, and constructive search for peace."

As regards the situation in Iraq and whether any positive stand had been taken by the Iraqi Government in the past few weeks, the British secretary of state said: "I did not notice that and after the defection of Husayn Kamil, Baghdad confessed about the biological weapons after denying it for several years." He asked himself: "How can we tell if Iraq is telling the truth." He also stressed the need to continue putting pressure on Iraq until it complies with all the UN resolutions. He said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Britain shared similar views on this subject.

Meets King Fahd

LD0711193195 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Custodian of the two holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud in his office at al-Salam Palace, today received His Excellency Malcolm Rifkind, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Leaves Jeddah

LD0811084395 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0814 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 8 Nov (SPA) — His Excellency British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind left Jeddah today after a two-day official visit to the kingdom. [passage omitted]

Minister Inaugurates Seminar on Mining Investments

LD0711204995 Riyadh SPA in English 1933 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Nov 7, SPA — Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources 'Ali al-Nuaymi inaugurated here today a seminar on the joint mining investments in the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states.

Speaking on the occasion al-Nuaymi said such seminars and meetings do embodize [as received] the keenness of the GCC member states in enhancing their cooperation and integration and to accomplish further economic development and growth.

He noted that the seminar has earned importance because it will tackle the issue of mining which effectively contributes to economic growth in the GCC member states.

Citing the Kingdom's policy for the development of the mining sector, al-Nuaymi said the Almighty God has bestowed on the Kingdom so many minerals that could be exploited in a useful manner. Despite the exploration of minerals in the Kingdom has started only 25 years ago, yet we have made big strides in this field, he said.

Al-Nuaymi said the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is keen on undertaking mining works on strong bases of scientific research and serious economic studies.

We have prepared detailed and accurate geological maps for most of the Kingdom's regions in addition to an atlas for the industrial minerals and a book on the mineral resources, he said.

Al-Nuaymi said the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has set up a data center containing feasiblity studies for the various minerals.

The state has made it possible for the private sector to exploit certain minerals like cement, gypsum, sand, pottery, and marbles, he said and added arrangements were underway to exploit minerals like gold and silver as well as iron and copper.

Al-Nuaymi said arrangements were underway to expand the activity of the projects of Mahd al-Dahab and the Saudi company for precious minerals which have so far proved to be successful projects.

Al-Nuaymi noted that the contribution of petroleum to the gross national product has dropped from 75 percent in the early eighties to 37 percent. He attributed this drop to so many reasons including the increase of the contribution of the private sector to the gnp.

He noted that investment in some mineral projects like cement, gypsum and marbles has led to the establishment of an integrated indsutry.

The number of the factories linked with these minerals has exceeded 400, or about 20 percnet of the total industrial installations in the Kingdom, he said and added the invested capital at these factories which employ about 35,000 workers, amounts to SR [Saudi Rials] 17 billion.

When we carry out the mining plans the saudi economy will witness in the next ten years a steady growth, he said and added the expected growth rate in the mining sector is estimated by about nine percent in the sixth development plan.

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Al-Nuaymi said the Saudi Government is not only keen on exploration of minerals and saling them in the international market, 'but it is also keen on establishment of a national industry that linked with the mining sector.'

He pointed out that the GCC member states currently import a number of raw materials like iron, phosphates, bauxite to use them in various industries.

The Saudi Government views any industry that does not depend on the national cadres as an incomplete achievement, he said noting that the petroleum industry is now dependent on the national cadres in terms of management and operation.

Al-Nuaymi said the role of the private sector in the field of mining industry will not only be at the level of the Kingdom, but it will also be at the level of the GCC member states.

For his part, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ibrahim Khabiri said the seminar aims at enabling the investors to get acquainted with the available investment opportunities in the field of mining. He urged the private sector to contribute to the implementation of mining projects so as to realzie further economic stability and growth.

On the other hand, Dr Abdallah al-Quaiz [name as received], the assistant GCC secretary general for economic affairs, said the GCC member states are keen on boosting their economy through diversification of their sources of income. They are keen on setting up non-petroleum industries that depend on non-organic materials, he said. He pointed out that the GCC unified economic agreement underscores the importance of establishment of joint investment projects and added 'by calling the private sector to contribute to the implementation of joint projects, we aim at realization of further coordination among the development plans so as to pave the way for economic integration'.

Al-Quaiz said the GCC Permanent Committee for Petroleum Cooperation and the Industrial Cooperation Committee give great attention to the mining sector.

Realizing its pioneering role in the field of economic integration, the ministerial committees have urged the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the investment projects, he said.

Later al-Nuaymi opend the show organized at the fringes of the seminar. A number of governmental and non-governmental authorities in the GCC member states are participating in the show.

CDLR Monitor Issues Bulletin No. 67

MS0311112495 London CDLR Monitor in English 29 Sep 95

[Bulletin No. 67 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 29 September — received via Internet 3 November]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — Who Controls the Direction of the Elite?

In the previous issue we mentioned that open opposition outside the boundaries of the regime inevitably results in the monopolisation of ideologies. This is because being outside the boundaries of the regime's influence enables the opposition to convey their message to the people in a clear and presentable manner, despite the oppressive environment which so effectively stifles other voices of dissent. We also mentioned the importance of such a heavy responsibility. This monopoly is not just concerned with the control of thought and ideology but is also concerned with the directing of positive actions. The control of thought and ideology may lead to the control of theoretical awakening, which is also important. However, the control of directing positive movement means controlling the positive activities arising from within the society, which is far more serious than basic ideology. The reason behind the possession of the facility to direct society is not simply due to being outside the boundaries of the regime, it is also a result of immensely important practical reasons which need to be studied with care.

We believe that the most important factor is the satisfaction of the public and the elite with the declared manifesto, along with the ability of the movement to pass from the theoretical stage to the practical stage. There are numerous people involved in the reform process who are looking forward to putting into practice that which they have learned during their Islamic upbringing, i.e. the comprehensiveness of Islam, its practicality, and Islam's reform of the person, society and state etc. Such ideas were firmly introduced in conferences and by preachers, but in a purely theoretical manner. This, of course, makes the public aware of the huge vacuum between the theory and the actual practice, especially where they view projects, empty of political work or effective social activities. Whether this absence of productive activities was due to the ineffectual endeavours of various people, or was due to the prevailing security situation, the people who chose declared opposition managed to raise the banner high in a most effective manner and were able to make use of political language in most commanding terms. Such people were able to

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put forward the comprehensive idea of reforming society and the state. Circumstances made this group the only ones with the ability to proceed with the actual directing of society.

Therefore, it is obvious that their style of approach would satisfy the future ambitions of the elite of the awakening, who were brought up over many years on theoretical ideas but were unable to envisage a practical plan to put into practice. This elite now see this as possible through the declared opposition.

It is of vital importance that anyone who feels that they have a role in the reform activities should comprehend this reality. Those who took the risk by declaring their opposition, and who escaped the boundaries of the regime, will continue to attract activists. What also needs to be recognised is that which makes the activists in the reform project convinced of the effectiveness of the opposition and their activities. It is not simply the satisfaction of looking forward to the reform of society and the state, but runs much deeper than this.

When these people compare the performance of the opposition with other available ideas, they see a vast differences. The opposition has succeeded in creating events and taking the initiative, and this actually attracted the minds and souls of the people who are hungry for change.

Sadly, however, many of those who have the ability to act have failed to do so.

Worse by far, is that they have also failed to react and take a clear stand towards the regime's activities. There is a form of negativism in their attempts to escape the actual reality of the challenges before them, usually accompanied with the feeble excuse of security and protection of ideology. This is an exceptionally easy and weak platform to adopt. However, even if the necessities of security justify the reason behind abstaining from any actual risks or initiatives, it does not justify the total failure to take a clear stand. This is pure negativism and can only reflect the total failure to follow current events.

Another reason behind the success of open and declared opposition in winning over the elite lies in the ability to employ the intelligence and potential of the elite in modest effort, and by providing such people with the opportunity to produce in gainful ways by transforming their pessimism into optimism. Such success from relatively modest effort has embarrassed those who claim to have experience within the movement, yet who have singularly failed to utilise such potential due to the secretive nature of their activities. These people were quite likely the reason for preventing the potential within society from being realised productively, all under the excuse of security and protection for the project in hand.

These facts must be afforded a great deal of thought and consideration if we choose to deal with the developments in practical terms. The opposition groups must realise the increasing responsibility held when a great number of the educated elite joins ranks with them. They must accept this reality because an intellectual or a scholar cannot remain idle indefinitely whilst he sees the changes and events unfolding before his eyes.

The stage we are currently undergoing is especially critical. As society changes with time, the reform activists must be ready to carry the responsibility, and must view their true role from all perspectives both open and secretive. It is vitally important to understand the danger of this particular stage and to be totally prepared to deal with the reality and to follow events, as well as to convince the followers to take the correct stand at the right times and to be able to react with suitable actions.

Finally it is of great importance to be able to create events and take initiatives, otherwise there will be no escape from the monopoly of the declared movement in directing the elite. Therefore, those who are concerned for the reform and change movement must participate fully in guiding the activities and in creating the effort needed at such a critical stage.

News — Maha al-Sudayri's Adventures

Before Maha's travels to the USA this summer, she decided to show her strength by challenging the women of the royal family (and the men for that matter) by causing embarrassment on two separate occasions.

The first was at Prince Al-Walid Ibn-Talal's shopping centre where she requested, or rather ordered, the management of the shops to evacuate the centre for her convenience. The management contacted Al-Walid's brother, Khalid Ibn-Talal, who arrived in person to solve the problem. He confronted Maha and refused to evacuate the market on her personal whim. Later, when Khalid returned to his residence, he was surprised by the forces of the Interior Ministry surrounding his home. He contacted his brother who in turn contacted Crown Prince 'Abdallah who then contacted the King, the only one able to solve the problem.

The second incident was in Jeddah, where Maha closed down a shopping centre and a whole street by using police.

In the first incident, an armed confrontation was narrowly avoided between Talal's sons and Nayif's forces. Such incidents indicate two important points.

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Firstly, the structure of the family and their internal relations are extremely fragile, and such a thoughtless woman can easily make sparks.

Secondly, there is an inability within the family to take decisions to control such activities which cause great embarrassment nearly every week and they all seem to stem from the same woman.

An Interrogator Involved In Accident

One of the security officers in Ha'il was involved in a road accident and was found unconscious in his car with head and body injuries. After his transfer to hospital he remained unconscious for a week, and even afterwards he was unable to recall the events that happened to him. However, his wife explained that he had been threatened by the Youth of Ha'il. They informed him that if he did not stop harming the reform activists in Ha'il, they would take their revenge on him. News of the accident spread quickly amongst officers, despite the attempts of the Interior Ministry to keep it secret. The news caused a wave of fear and terror of the possibility of similar acts of revenge.

Financial Crisis Deepens

In the Central Burayda Hospital the management are unable to provide the most basic commodities, such as surgery tools, medicine, oxygen tanks etc. The same is also true of a good number of the Health Ministry's hospitals. However, the crisis has even touched the hospitals of the Defense Ministry. The general surgery department of King Fahd Hospital in Dhahran was actually closed down and the patients were given indefinite appointments for their operations. Such developments give very important messages of deepening financial crises. King Fahd hospital is one of the more modern hospitals, and is similar to the military hospital in Riyadh in care and funding.

More Strikes

In Bukairiyyah, last Tuesday and Wednesday, many disabled and mentally retarded people were left to their own devices when workers at their centre went on strike. The local authorities were unable to solve the problem of the workers at the centre, the non-payment of wages for over 8 months. Another demonstration took place at the same time in Qasim. Numerous labourers and workers from various institutions and companies also protested against non-payment of wages. The police transported them by bus to unknown destinations.

Al Jowf Liberals

Issue 18 of the monthly bulletin by the Al Jowf Liberals was published, with the leading article entitled, "The First Martyr On the Road of Struggle" in which they told the story of 'Abdallah al- Hudhayf. The article stated that days or even years may pass without reaching the target, but as long as the reform movement is progressing forward as planned, then we will all be ready to do what Al-Hudhayf did, sacrifice. They said we must promise our leaders and reformers that we will be their support and help.

The Conference of the Tortured

With the co-operation of CDLR, the "Redress Trust" which is concerned with the right of people who have been tortured, organised a mini-press conference in London. Various cases of torture which had taken place inside the Kingdom were detailed by those who had been tortured. The regime attempted to distort the conference by sending a number of people in the guise of journalists and researchers to participate. These people had detailed information and papers (which could only have come from the embassy) of the cases under discussion. It was abundantly clear, therefore, that the Embassy had organised such a farcical situation. This incident created the desired effect of the conference, the majority of those present were disgusted at the activities of the Embassy.

Two days later, the Embassy faxed papers of accusations of embezzlement which Dr. Al-Mas'ari was supposed to have committed when he was an educational attache in America!

Further Besiegement of Reform

According to Interior Ministry directions, a decision was issued by the Islamic Affairs Ministry to cease granting permission for voluntary preachers, as well as preventing the renewal of permission to those already preaching. A decision was issued to demolish the system of voluntary co-operation and preaching.

Another order was also issued forbidding the placement of any leaflets in the mosques, including official fatwas and declarations of permitted lectures. Warnings have been given to the Imams of mosques that they will be accountable if the orders are not strictly followed. The permission for preaching activities has been transferred to a Committee formed by the Islamic Affairs Ministry whose members were approved by the Interior Ministry. The people concerned with preaching affairs are complaining because this committee has not organised a meeting since its formation and as yet no permission has been given for any preaching activities.

Correction

In last week's bulletin the name of the pilot in the aeroplane accident was not Ahmad al-Zahrani, but

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was actually Ibrahim al- Zahrani. The aeroplane was carrying the number 1704, type F5 as mentioned before.

CDLR Monitor Issues Bulletin No. 68

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[Bulletin No. 68 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 6 October — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — Discussion of the Concerned

We will discuss in this issue and in a direct manner, points of concern of some of our Brothers, we will also answer their queries and comments. It is important for everyone to understand that the Committee accepts all constructive criticism and is prepared to discuss and debate such matters with their critics. The Committee was originally established to counter ideological oppression and the lack of freedom of speech. We are open to any suggestions, criticisms and comments, therefore and we are prepared to publish them in order to provide the Nation with an opportunity to participate in guiding the reform process.

With Regard To Maha al-Sudayri

Some of our readers have had their reservations about mentioning a number of royal personalities by name on numerous occasions and reporting their misdeeds and wrongdoings. These reservations were particularly concerned with Maha al-Sudayri, the wife of the Interior Minister. The argument of those people is that writing about corrupt personalities and their devious actions have no value within the wider political framework and so we should avoid writing about them.

We thank those concerned readers for their comments, but we would like to clarify the following points.

In the bulletins we have not simply discussed the devious actions and appalling behaviour of specific personalities, because if this were our aim, neither the bulletins nor the rest of our publications would be able to contain or cover all the information we possess about the corrupt and scandalous behaviour of the numerous members of the royal family.

This type of information which is available to the Committee is also readily available to others who are less reputable and who have used such information to blackmail the royal family on a regular and most effective basis. Furthermore, if our Brothers would care to contemplate further on exactly what has been published about Maha al-Sudayri (in particular) and Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, they may realise the intention behind our choices. For example, regarding Maha al-Sudayri, it was not only our aim to mention her devious personal actions, as there are many within the royal family who are far worse than her, but our main concern was to highlight her total control and her ability to use her husband's authority to its fullest extent. This indicates the total corruption of the regime, and we can state that exposing such matters serves several objectives:

1) Uncovering the triviality of the members of the royal family in general, and the Interior Minister, Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz in particular, is important in that such information can be utilised to destroy the 'aura of respect' around the royal family which is fed to public. This had been so cleverly managed, until recently, that the people of the peninsula were convinced that the family were of the highest levels of morality and respect. Therefore, by publishing such news, the public is made aware that the whole regime, not just a husband, is a toy in the hands of Maha al- Sudayri. This will necessarily lead to the destruction of the aura of respect afforded to such figures. This can only be achieved by constant publication of news related to this subject in order to prove beyond doubt that Nayif is unable to prevent his wife from abusing his authority in the Ministry, even after the continued embarrassment caused by the news reported in the bulletins.

The same applies to another major personality within the royal family to whom we have referred regarding his involvement in a perversion which is hated throughout, Arab and Islamic culture. We mentioned that our concern was not with his behaviour itself, but with the consequences of such behaviour, which in fact explains the reasons behind many promotions and appointments. It also goes some way to explaining certain policies towards various countries, where such countries are in a position to blackmail this person because they hold video-taped information of his perverted behaviour.

2) We publish certain information in order to prove the fragility and vulnerability of the royal family and its weak internal relations. We aim to illustrate how pleasing his wife is more important to Nayif than the unity of the royal family. He continued to support his wife whilst ignoring the wishes of his brothers. He went even further when he confronted other family members on two occasions on behalf of his wife. On one occasion he despatched Interior Ministry forces to besiege the residence of Khalid Ibn- Talal. On yet another occasion, which was more serious, an armed confrontation was narrowly averted between the Interior Ministry's police

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and the military police, all because of the actions of Nayif's wife

Once again, the same point can be applied to the other figure, as he would not stop his perverted behaviour despite the embarrassment he has caused his family.

3) We need to clarify, to the people, the inability of the royal family, in its present state, to take a decisive stand and the inability of the King to control his brothers. The family were unable to control Maha al-Sudayri despite the embarrassment she has caused and they could not prevent Nayf from placing Interior Ministry forces and the authority of the ministry at his wife's disposal.

If we compare the present family management of Maha al-Sudayri to the management of Bint al-Farsi in the past, we would see a huge difference, as Bint al-Farsi did not cause even a tenth of the trouble caused by Maha al-Sudayri. In addition, Bint al-Farsi's affairs were not openly published but were contained within the family. However, a major difference is that the one who used to take the decisions within the family was completely different to today's hesitant and weak Fahd who has allowed a case such as Maha al-Sudayri's to become a tool at the disposal of anyone wishing to embarrass al-Saud and to expose their inherent fragility and triviality.

Our information states that the King has failed to get rid of the problem by placing pressure on Nayif to control his wife or remove her. Instead, Nayif has insisted on protecting and keeping her. The King and his brothers were, therefore, unable to take any decisive action. Nayif is refusing to change his embarrassing stand and the King does not wish to take action against him because anyone could then claim that he had thus bowed to the pressure of the opposition. Once again the same points can be applied to the other personality mentioned. He has become totally addicted to his perverted activities, and the King cannot take any action against him despite the embarrassment caused. Such hesitant and pathetic leadership can only serve to prove our point regarding the total inability of the family to take any decisive actions.

Confiscation of Land and Embezzlement

Letters came in about the news of embezzlement and confiscation of land being mentioned. It was pointed out that the fact that everyone is aware of such activities made it unnecessary to publish. Their argument is that such information may create excitement and embarrassment initially, but that this would soon recede with time.

Our answer to this comment is that our aim of publishing such news exposing thiscriminal behaviour is summed up by the following three points:

1) We do not agree that everyone is aware of such activities. This information is only known to those concerned or interested and many of these people are only aware of part of the story. Therefore publication of such information is the only guaranteed method of reaching a wider circle of the public.

2) Spreading such news behind closed doors does not serve any purpose, because the aim is not simply to provide the news to certain figures, but the real aim is to force the regime to realise that the whole Nation has learned the details of such activities. The aim is to create an environment within the society that ensures everyone is aware of the regime's actions in thieving the nation's goods and wealth.

3) The continued publication of such news may lose its excitement after a period of time, however the aim is not the excitement of the reader, but rather is to besiege the regime and give them the feeling of being placed under surveillance by the Nation. The aim is also to prove that the regime is consistently embezzling the wealth of the Nation and has no intention of reform.

Many people are supportive and sympathetic of the Committee, and such people follow the crimes of the regime and are able to expose their scandals. However, putting pressure on the regime to stop a particular deal or confiscation of land is not a major aim, even though it has served in several cases.

Not all al-Saud are Bad

Other Brothers have had reservations with regard to using the generalised term, "Al-Saud" and of criticism of the royal family in general. These Brothers claim that there are actually several respectable members within the royal family.

They mentioned that some members of the family are also sympathetic towards the reformers and the reform project and therefore the general criticism of al Saud may lead to the loss of support of such people. This is valuable advice but we would like to comfort the Brothers in that most of our criticism is directed to a limited number of personalities headed by Fahd, Sultan, Salman and Nayif and their direct responsibility for the crimes of the regime. On occasions, others are specifically mentioned in relation to particular incidents. Sometimes, however, it is very difficult not to mention the term "al Saud" because the behaviour of the family in general is prevalently corrupt. For example, our series entitled, "A Reading of al Saud's Psychology" had to be generalised. This shows the effects of living under a certain method of leadership, which has created many psychological phenomena. These phenomena may appear at their worst in the above mentioned members

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of the royal family and may not have any effect on those few who may enjoy some Islamic behaviour and modesty. No one can deny the fact that the majority of the family suffer from what can be called the "delusions of Aal Saud", its the way they were brought up. It is inevitable that generalisations occur because of the behaviour of the majority. Therefore it is better for those within the royal family who feel responsible to either remove themselves from the actions of the majority of their relations, or to attempt to reform their relations in the best way they can.

What is Meant by " Algeria-isation "?

Some people have contacted us for an explanation regarding the term " the Algeria-isation" of the peninsula, which was published in the opening of the third issue of our magazine.

We would like to explain that the term does not imply the belittlement of anyone and we would like to confirm that the meaning of such a term is only a description of a particular situation. This is similar to using the term "Lebanisation," which refers to the transformation of a region into a situation similar to that which occurred in Lebanon, or the term "Balkanisation" which means the transformation of a region to a situation similar to that taking place in the Balkans, where one country is internally divided into small states raging war against each other in a continuos and complicated manner. We shall be careful to explain more fully in future.

Criticism of Mistakes

We receive many comments about particular sentences or declarations, or actions that need more wisdom. Some of the critics appear to be embarrassed to talk to us about such mistakes, and many send their criticisms indirectly or after a long introduction of praise. The case is much simpler, as we believe that we are only human and that we are doing our utmost to deal with events in the best way possible. There will inevitably be a certain number of mistakes which cannot be avoided. We agree with our critics regarding many of their criticisms, but we would prefer their criticism and guidance to embrace a wider level which includes our general manifesto and strategy. This is because the everyday mistakes which inevitably occur in any activity, although obviously important, are not as crucial as other aspects of our work. Therefore, we appeal to our critics to be more concerned with, the strategy of the movement and its manifesto. We request our Brothers to study the Committee's project in a wider sense and to supply us with their comments and criticisms, particularly as we are going to face a serious stage where we have to calculate our actions with the utmost care and attention.

Yemen

Interior Minister on Arrest of Algerian Extremist

MM0711155095 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 5-11 Nov 95 p 23

[Interview with Staff Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, minister of the interior, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] There is conflicting information about the Algerian extremist Adam Salah-al-Din [name as transliterated], also known as "Abu 'Abd-al-Rahman," leader of the armed al-Dali' group. When and how did he enter Yemen?

['Arab] He came to Yemen about two years ago to teach, under contract to the Education Ministry. However, four months before the al-Dali' incidents, he was fired for rebelling against the Education Ministry and abusing the purpose of his presence in Yemen.

This man claims to belong to the Sufi religious sect, but the investigations have shown that this is not the case, and that, instead, he belongs to another tendency, which could be more dangerous than the dangerous Islamic tendencies. We also found that he cheated on Islam. He is an individual who outwardly pretends to espouse Islam, but what he harbors inside does not serve Islam but harms its interests.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why were the security organs unaware of his activities and the disturbances he caused in al-Dali' for so long?

['Arab] The security organs were not unaware of his presence. We were watching him for two months before the incident. Unfortunately, the war [in Yemen] caused the security organs to focus on priority issues such as criminal cases and organizing the rest of the organs.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Do you believe that Abu 'Abd-al-Rahman was able to assemble his followers, form an armed group, and stage clashes with the security forces without a political or even personal cover inside Yemen, and what conclusions have you reached thus far?

['Arab] This is hypothetical, and as such is premature. The case is still being investigated. We will not hide anything, and will disclose the results achieved. The investigation indicates that, in effect, the man is not affiliated to any of the known religious tendencies, but instead follows another tendency altogether.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Which tendency?

['Arab] We do not want to preempt the ongoing investigation.

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[AL-MAJALLAH] Some people say that the Algerian Abu 'Abd-al- Rahman is the leader of the jihad organization in Yemen, which includes Arabs and Afghans. Is this true?

['Arab] There is no such organization in Yemen and it is not recognized. But there may be some individuals with special connections. The security organs will continue to try to uncover the truth in this case.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Were there any non-Yemeni elements arrested besides the Algerian?

['Arab] Some individuals of certain other nationalities were arrested in addition to Yemeni elements. There are five from al- Dali', including a young man who was in Afghanistan.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are they being held at Political Security Intelligence or at the Interior Ministry?

['Arab] They are being held at the Interior Ministry since this is nothing to do with Political Security. This is a criminal case.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Does the investigation indicate that there are political overtones?

['Arab] No, this is a murder and disturbance case that has nothing to do with politics. We must not confuse what is political with what is criminal. This is purely a criminal case, involving shooting and resisting the authorities. Where is the political action in this? Political action is when someone forms an illegal party, and we would then be entitled to ask him why he has formed the party and if the group is illegal. Here we have someone fighting the authorities and killing, and you tell me this is political. I do not accept that it is.

[AL-MAJALLAH] But as you mentioned, he was preaching on behalf of a sect, in other words an idea?

['Arab] It is not necessary to preach. It has been proved that he has committed crimes and was caught red-handed.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Some people have linked the recent violent incidents in Yemen to the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], the main Islamic party in the country and a partner in the government. Does such a link between the YRG and the extremists in Yemen exist, and are there any connections at all between the two?

['Arab] There is a vast difference between Islamic extremists and the YRG. When we talk about extremists, we stress that they have no relations with the YRG, at least as a political organization as we know it. I cannot deny that there may be personal connections, but as a political organization, the YRG has nothing to do with them. I am personally more familiar than anyone else with this matter, and the YRG must not be unjustly blamed for it. However, there are some Islamic extremists with whom we differ and whom we do not accept in Yemen, be they Yemenis or otherwise.

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Al-Sahhaf: Position on Resolution 986 Unchanged

JN0811210795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report] [FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on statements by Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in Doha, the capital of the State of Qatar, published by the Qatari newspapers AL-RAYAH and AL-SHARQ on 8 November 1995, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

I met with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on Thursday, 5 October, in New York City. We spoke about several issues, including Security Council Resolution No. 986. I explained to 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid the reasons which prompted Iraq to reject that resolution. These reasons are real and substantial and are stated in that resolution. They relate to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. I also explained to the Arab League secretary general the clauses of that resolution which prompted Iraq to reject it.

The foreign minister added: I was very clear and precise in my discussion with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. I told him that the clauses of Resolution 986 that prejudice Iraq's security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are clear. Keeping those clauses in that resolution is the reason Iraq has not accepted the resolution. Therefore, the problem with that resolution is not whether we can or can't test it. The problem is that certain parties insist on using that resolution to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and prejudice its territorial integrity. We have not heard any ideas or new positions from the Security Council that take into consideration Iraq's fair and clear stand that is concerned about its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Therefore, Iraq's position on Resolution 986 remains unchanged.

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid told AL-RAYAH and AL-SHARQ that he had proposed to the foreign minister that Iraq implement Resolution 986 for six months after which it may decide whether to continue or to halt the implementation.

Egyptian Delegation Meets Trade, Health Ministers

NC0411122795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Nov (MENA)—The visiting Egyptian trade delegation headed by 'Isam al-Khashshab began its activity today by holding separate meetings with Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak.

Sources of the Egyptian delegation told a MENA correspondent in Baghdad that discussion focused on providing Iraq with its needed food and medicine in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, "which allow the import of food and medicine." The discussion also dealt with ways for cooperation in this regard.

The sources described the meetings as important, adding that they were held in a friendly atmosphere dominated by understanding. But the sources did not furnish further details about what went on during the meetings. [passage omitted]

Parliament Ratifies Oil Agreement With Russia

JN0511172995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—The National Assembly today ratified the agreement signed between the Governments of Iraq and the Russian Federation on bilateral cooperation to implement oil and natural gas industry projects.

In its second session within its third Fall Term this morning, the National Assembly hosted representatives of the Foreign and Oil Ministries. The session was held under acting National Assembly Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri. The representatives reviewed relations between Iraq and the Russian Federation and ways of promoting them in the service of the interests of the two friendly peoples.

Minister on Measures To Cope With Gas Shortage

JN0811212495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Colonel 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, the minister of oil, said the Ministry of Oil has taken new measures to meet the gas shortage during the winter season. The oil minister spoke about the new measures in the following interview with our correspondent Nada Shawqi:

[Begin recording] [Shawqi] Eng. Col. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, minister of oil, hello.

[Rashid] Welcome.

[Shawqi] What are the recent measures adopted by your ministry to cope with the gas shortage in Iraq?

[Rashid] We predicted a problem in the supply of gas several months ago. This was clear from statistics released since the beginning of 1995. The Ministry of Oil adopted serious measures. First of all, it mobilized all capabilities and resources to increase the production

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of liquid gas. In the first and second quarters of 1995, production was around 3,400 tonnes daily. We hope that within the next two days this figure will rise to 4,600 tonnes daily. This is a substantial increase that will be felt tangibly by the citizens. Naturally, the personnel of the Ministry of Oil did some serious and effective maintenance work during the last couple of months, so as to make this achievement. Certainly, the citizens suffered during that period, but I hope that their suffering will be reduced to a minimum shortly. This is as far as production is concerned. Regarding the filling stations, we have taken some measures to increase their number. As you know, we had around 14 stations before the aggression. The Ministry of Oil now has 46 stations. This is a good increase, which was achieved under the blockade and its problems. Transportation and the private sector remain two major problems. This is because transportation from the filling stations to the squares where gas is sold makes up 75 percent of the effort made in this regard. The cost is high due to the cost of tires and other problems. So the private sector asks for high prices to transport gas. We cannot pay all the money, because this puts a great burden on the budget of the state. We do our best in this regard, although we cannot really do it in a very satisfactory manner. We always try to make the problem of transportation easier. The main point, however, is that production has increased and the filling stations will increase. We will try to solve the problem of transportation, in cooperation with the private sector. One last point, if you allow me, which concerns the question of distribution vehicles. This is an additional cost. Due to their living circumstances or to other reasons, the citizens may not be able to go to the squares where gas is sold. Therefore, they would want gas to be delivered to their homes. The private sector will do this in return for an additional sum. This sum must be reasonable. We are conducting a study on this issue to specify the cost of delivery so as to avoid any exploitation or extortion.

[Shawqi] Thank you very much.

[Rashid] You are welcome. [end recording]

Exiles Call For Anti-Regime 'Initiative'

MM0811164395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Nov 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Document of the London Symposium on the Iraqi People's Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The closing document issued by the meeting for the Iraqi people's defense, which was opened in London by al-Sharif 'Ali Ibn-al-Husayn, urged the Iraqi people to "take the initiative and make their voice heard" at a time when "solutions concerning the fate of the people and Iraq's future are being brandished without any regard to the opinion of its sons or that of the national opposition forces inside Iraq and abroad."

It called on Iraqis to work "hand in hand" to contact international, Arab, and Islamic organizations with a view to achieve three objectives: "To work toward isolating the regime, to contest the legitimacy of its right to represent Iraq at international gatherings, and to refer its leaders to an international court for punishment for their crimes," and to work toward "ending the people's plight caused by the international sanctions and to ensure a supply of food and medicines, which would concurrently guarantee that the regime did not misuse the financial resources to commit hostile acts inside Iraq and abroad." The document stressed "the attempt to establish a pluralist democratic regime which would guarantee the citizens' equal rights and duties, would be based on the people's will, and would guarantee that all Iraqis, be they Arabs, Shiites, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkmens or people from the remaining groups and minorities, can enjoy their political, national, and cultural rights within a united Iraq."

The two-day meeting, held at the Commonwealth Institute in London, was a symposium grouping independent Iraqi figures residing in Britain and abroad. The closing document was distributed yesterday.

PLO's Qaddumi Congratulates Saddam on 'Victory'

JN0411163595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 4 Nov (INA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has congratulated President Saddam Husayn on his landslide victory on the day of the general referendum.

In a message addressed to Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Qaddumi said this great occasion is a historic event and a democratic action that demonstrated full popular support for the leadership in Iraq.

Faruq Qaddumi stressed that Iraq has taken a heroic stand in the face of all foreign challenges and had put up with numerous hardships for the sake of its independence and sovereignty. He also said that Iraq will remain as we have always known it, an Arab fortress to protect the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

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Army Officers Congratulate Saddam on Victory

JN0711194895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has met with a number of his sons, the fighter officers in our valiant Armed Forces, who came to congratulate his excellency on the Great March Day.

The leader president, may God watch over him, had dinner with his sons, the fighters.

KDP Handed Fleeing Arab Families Over to Regime

NC0811173895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] handed over 14 families to the Iraqi regime's forces on the Fa'idah checkpoint on the combat line between the area controlled by the regime's forces and the liberated region of Kurdistan.

The newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY published a report today, citing a special source, saying that these families were Arab refugee families who had come from Baghdad and some southern cities after fleeing the ruling regime's terrorism and brutality. They were staying at a camp located between Dahuk and Zakho. The KDP forced them to board special trucks and handed them over on 26 October.

According to the report, some members of those families were deserters from the Iraqi Army, including several officers.

Cease-Fire Observers Dispatched to North

LD0811153295 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA — The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) has dispatched a team of observers to Northern Iraq to prevent any clash between the two main rival Kurdish groups, a SAIRI official, Abu Mahmoud, told IRNA here last night.

The SAIRI move is part of the agreement reached between the representatives of the two groups in Tehran last month.

Abu Mahmoud added that the SAIRI observers team will see to it that the cease-fire between the two factions is not violated.

He also said that the decision to dispatch observers team to Northern Iraq came after the representatives of the Kurdistan's Democratic Party (KDP) led by Masoud Barzani and the patriotic union of Kurdistan (PUK) headed by Jalal Talebani met with the Siri head, Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Hakim, here last month.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not been involved in this matter. He added that the decision was merely taken to prevent further blooodshed among the Iraqi Kurds and halt penetration of foreign agents in the region.

RCC Decree on Additional Import Custom Duty

JN2310190095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Oct 95 p 4

[RCC Decree No. 108 of 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 108 dated 4 October 1995

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: An additional custom duty, according to the percentages specified in the lists attached to this decree, shall be charged on commodities whose import is permitted without foreign transfer.

Second: The custom duty stipulated in Clause "First" of this decree shall be counted when assessing the value of the imported commodity on the basis of the exchange rate, which is declared by the Iraqi Central Bank and used by licensed companies and money exchange bureaus as well as the government commercial banking system.

Third: The cabinet is authorized to determine the percentage of the additional custom duty stipulated in Clause "First" of this decree on commodities whose import is permitted after the issuance of this decree, and within the limits of the percentages determined in the aforementioned clause.

Fourth: The provisions of this decree do not apply to commodities which are imported for the state and socialist sector departments.

Fifth: This decree shall come into effect as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

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Commodities Which Can Be Imported

List No. 1

Basic Consumer Goods	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
1.Wheat	-	free
2.Flour	-	15 Fils per kg
3.Rice	-	free
4.Sugar	-	44 fils
5.Tea	-	235 fils
6.Vegetable oil	-	100 fils
7.Vegetable oil for cooking only	-	15 fils
8.Legumes	-	free
9.Baby milk	-	20-80 fils
10.Fresh and frozen meat and frozen fish	-	200 fils
11.Grain, crushed wheat, and ground grain	-	40 fils
12. yeast for making loaves and local bread only	-	40 fils
13. Matches	5	475 fils
14. Shaving blades	5	25 percent

Building Materials	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
15.Iron of all types	7	25 fils for 10 kg
16.Timber	7	1-3 dinars per square meter
17.Sink hoses	7	10 percent
18.Water taps	7	10 percent
19.Mixer taps & stoppers	7	10 percent
20.Metal pipes & accessories	7	10 percent
21.Door locks & switches	7	15 percent
22.Door handles	7	15 percent
23.Window screens	7	12 percent

Building Materials	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
24.Electrical foundations of all types	7	10 percent
25.Electric bulbs and fluorescent tubes of all types	7	15 percent
26.Air suction pumps	7	20 percent
27.Water pumps	7	15 percent
28.Plastic pipes & connectors	7	15 percent
29.Chlorine Gas cylinders	7	free
30.Rubber pipe rings & accessories	7	15 percent
31.Lab instruments & equipment	7	8 percent
32.Watermeters	7	8 percent
33.Cables & wiring	7	10 percent
34.Geometrical instruments	7	10 percent
35.Spare parts for electrical & mechanical projects	7	10 percent

Industrial Machines, Equipment & Vehicles	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
36.Excavators of all types	5	free
37.Folk lifts	5	8 percent
38.Electric motors	5	5 percent
39.Power generators	5	free
40.Electric pumps	5	5 percent
41.Power-driven Shovels	5	free
42.Steamrollers	5	free
43.Graders	5	free
44.Dumpers	5	15 percent
45.Public transport buses	7	50 percent

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Industrial Machines, Equipment & Vehicles	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
46.Industrial vehicles	7	40 percent
47.Machines for food processing, packing & packaging	5	free
48.Modified pickups for use by the disabled	7	40 percent
49.Refrigerator warehouses	7	50 percent
50.Engines for sand, mixing, agricultural, and construction machines	5	15 percent
51.Rammers & silos	5	15 percent

Agricultural Produce Requirments	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
53.Engines for pumping stations	5	free
54.Spare parts for dairy farms	5	free
55.Raw materials for fodder	5	10 percent
56.Soya beans cake	5	3 fils per 1 kg
57.Protein concentrates	5	10 percent
58.Fish powder	5	50 percent
59.Supplements for making fodder	5	5 percent
60.Supplies for fodder factories	5	50 percent
61.Chicks	5	free
62.Spare parts for poultry farm projects	5	5 percent
63.Spare parts for slaughterhouses	5	free
64.Machines & equipment for poultry farms	5	free

Agricultural Produce Requirments	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
65.Supplies for apiaries	5	free
66.Automatic fodder machines	5	free
67.Agricultural pumps	5	15 percent
68.Fibers for fishing nets and ropes	5	15 percent
69.Grain harvesters	5	free
70.Rice harvesters	5	free
71.Big & small trailers	5	40 percent
72.Agricultural pesticide sprayers	5	free
73.Agricultural water sprayers	5	5 percent
74.Pressure tools and equipment	5	10 percent
75.Seeds and saplings for planting	5	free
76.Drilling machines & equipment	5	free
77.Threshers	5	free
78.Seeds other than those for decorative plants	5	11 percent
79.Veterinary drugs for chicken	5	5 percent
80.Veterinary drugs for livestock	5	5 percent
81.Supplies for fisheries & fishing	5	free
82.Drip irrigation equipment	5	15 percent

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Supplies for Industrial Production	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
82.Mineral salts & organic acids	5	10 percent
83.Organic dyes & formulas for fixing colors	5	free
84.Raw materials for paints	5	free
85.Oils and greases	5	15 fils per 1 kg
86.Plastic & cellulose materials & industrial resins	5	10 percent
87.Plastic strings and hoses	5	15 percent
88.Plastic sheets & strips	5	15 percent
89.Insect & fungi insecticides not available locally	5	10 percent
90.Organic chemical products	5	10 percent
91.Paste for dentistry models and teeth molds	5	5 percent
92.Activated carbon & activated metal products	5	5 percent
93.Acidic solutions for cleaning metallic surfaces	5	5 percent
94.Varnish-removing compounds	5	15 percent
95.Spun yarns of synthetic and artificial fibers, and crepe materials	5 90 fils per 1 kg	
96.Spun yarns of woven fabrics	5	5 percent
97.Tanned hides	5 30	percent
98.Ready-made parts for shoes	5	50 percent
99.Rubber sheets and strips	5	20 percent
100.Rubber strings and ropes	5	25 percent
101.Rubber pipes and hoses	5	20 percent
102.Dried milk	-	20-80 fils per kg
103.Rubber disks and rings	5	15 percent
104.Spun yarns of jute	5	10 percent
105.Lining materials	5	15 percent
106.Embroidery yarns	5	50 percent
107.Felt & felt products	5	20 percent
108.Conveyor belts	5	5 percent
109.Grinding stones for machines	5	10 percent
110.Ordinary and natural silk threads	5	150 fils per kg
111.Woolen yarns	5	250 fils per kg

Further on RCC Decree on Customs Duty

JN0311073695 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Oct 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] [Continuation of RCC Decree on Import Duty]

Supplies for Industrial Production	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
112.Cotton yarns	5	120 fils per 1 kg
113.Bobbins	-	130 fils
114.Linen yarns	5	15 percent
115.Synthetic fiber yarns	5	90 fils
116.Fiberglass and products	5	5-20 percent
117.Iron & steel blocks	5	free
118.Steel pipes	5	10 percent
119.Iron & steel wires and rods	5	10 percent
120.Insulating materials for metals	5	10 percent

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Supplies for Industrial Production	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
121.Heat-resistant products	5	5-15 percent
122.Nails, screws, and nuts made of iron	5	15 percent
123.Manual and electrical saws	5	10 percent
124.Unfinished blades	5	25 percent
125.Fireplace sections	5	20 percent
126.Lead ore & alloys	5	free
127.Lead, lead alloys, hinges and wires	5	10 percent
128.Zinc ore & alloys	5	free
129.Processed zinc, zinc alloys & wires	5	10 percent
130.Iron & steel chains and their parts	5	15 percent
131.Iron & steel pins and clips	5	15 percent
132.Iron & steel springs and lancets	5	15 percent
133.Ordinary metal beads and sequins	5	50 percent
134.Ordinary wires and metals	5	12 percent
135.Mill equipment and parts	5	5 percent
136.Metal structures and parts	5	30 percent
137.Plastic covers and stoppers	5	50 percent
138.Spare parts for metal, textile, food, and chemical industries	5	5 percent
139.Machines for metal, textile, carpentry, and construction industries	5	5 percent
140.Machines & equipment for chemical industries	5	5 percent
141.Parts for air conditioners and air coolers	5	50 percent
142.Electrical parts, generators, engines, circuit breakers, and fuses	5	5 percent
143.Insulated wires and rods	5	15 percent
144.Electric insulators, conduits & others	5	5 percent
145.Manual and electrical tools	5	5 percent
146.Electrical welding equipment and parts	5	5 percent
147.Painted textiles	5	15 percent
148.Artificial leather	5	15 percent
149.Ropes	5	15 percent
150.Glue	5	15 percent
151.Different types of linoleum	5	15 percent
152.Jute bags [25 kgs capacity and over]	5	10 percent
153.Polypropylene bags [25 kgs capacity and over]	5	10 percent
154.Net bags [25 kgs capacity and over]	5	10 percent
155.Glass & plastic bottles for drinks, drugs, and solutions	5	20 percent
156.Glass and plastic bottle tops	5	50 percent
157.Sections of oil stoves and ovens and gas cookers	5	40 percent

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Pharmaceutical and Medical Items	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
157.Baby milk bottles and teats	5	25 percent
158.Teething teats	5	8 percent
159.Plastic diaper wraps	5	50 percent
160.Surgical instruments	5	8 percent
161.Stethoscopes	5	8 percent
162.Equipment for measuring blood pressure	5	10 percent
163.Baby utilities	5	50 percent
164.Baby aids	5	5 percent
165.Medical pastes for teeth	5	20 percent
166.Medical soaps and baby powders	5	150 fils per 1 kg
167.Pastes for dentistry models & teeth molds	5	20 percent
168.Glass bottles & droppers	5	20 percent
169.X-ray plates and films	5	50 percent
170.Lab equipment	5	8 percent
171.Sterilization drums	5	20 percent
172.Medical pincers, forceps & scissors	5	15 percent
173.Medical electrical equipment	5	8 percent
174.Dentistry equipment	5	8 percent
175.Gloves & Threads for operations	5	5 percent
176.X-ray photography equipment	5	8 percent
177.Lab items	5	25 percent
178.Sanitary napkins	5	10 percent
179.Medical Threads	5	8 percent
180.Hospital beds	5	5 percent
181.Empty gelatin capsules	5	5 percent
182.Syringes of different capacities: 2cc, 5cc, and 10cc	5	8 percent
183.Contact Lens solutions	5	10-15 percent
184.Materials for foot care	5	50 percent
185.Medical bandages of cotton and gauze and back plasters	5	15 percent
186.Sterilizers: Dettol, Savlon, & Septin	5	10 percent [more]

List No. 2: Commodities Which Can Be Imported, Are Exempt of Custom Duty, and Subject to Import Permit:

Food Items	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
1.Coffee in bags	-	75 fils per 1 kg
2.Acetic Acid	10	40 fils per litre
3.Tobacco	10	3.5 dinars per kg
4.Accessories for welding sections by oxygen & gas	5	5 percent
5.Oxygen regulator	5	5 percent
6.Jacks for vehicles	5	5 percent
7.Key-making equipment	5	5 percent
8.Jacks for car body repair	5	5 percent
9.Measurement and weight scales	5	10 percent
10.Metal and tape measuring aids	5	10 percent
11.Voltmeters	5	10 percent
12.Wire gauges	5	10 percent
13.Oxygen hoses	5	15 percent

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Food Items	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
14.Tyre jacks	5	10 percent
15.Concrete and wooden blocks	5	5 percent
16.Garage tools and equipment	5	10 percent
17.Welding wire	5	5 percent
18.Soldering wire	5	5 percent
19.Electrically-operated grinding stones	5	10 percent
20.Protection glasses	5	15 percent
21.Black glass plates	5	20 percent
22.Tongs & pliers	5	10 percent
23.Air pressure gauges	5	10 percent
24.Building scales	5	10 percent
25.Pipe wrenches	5	10 percent
26.Wrenches and reamers of all types	5	10 percent
27.Scissors & wrenches	5	10 percent
28.Metal carpentry files and pliers	5	10 percent
29.Tool boxes	5	10 percent
30.Diamond and porcelain cutters	5	10 percent
31.Wires	5	10 percent
32.Tinsmith's tools	5	10 percent
33.Carpentry tools	5	10 percent
34.Iron anvils	5	10 percent
35.Balance scales	5	10 percent
36.Screwdrivers	5	10 percent
37.Battery acid testers	5	10 percent
38.Machines for metal and wood work	5	5 percent
39.Automatic saws	5	5 percent

Food Items	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
40.Cleansing carriages and accessories	5	15 percent
41.Gas regulators	5	10 percent
42.Starters	5	10 percent
43.Submerged Pumps	5	15 percent
44.Cranes	5	5 percent
45.Shakers	5	free
46.Rammers	5	-
47.Electric lifts & accessories	5	8 percent
48.Brake disks	5	10 percent
49.Gaskets	5	15 percent
50.Waterproof paper & cellophane paper	5	10 percent
51.Belts	5	10 percent
52.Straps	5	10 percent
53.Printing machines with offset	5	free
54.Wire ropes	5	10 percent
55.Hydraulic hoses	5	15 percent
56.Pumps	5	15 percent
57.Notebook-making machines	5	5 percent
58.Ice-making machines	5	10 percent
59.Pin-making machines	5	5 percent
60.Fire extinguishers	5	5 percent
61.Machines for printing on metals	5	15 percent
62.Ambulances	7	50 percent
63.Refrigerator cars	7	40 percent
64.Electrical presses	5	10 percent
65.Equipment for engraving on metals and plastics	5	5 percent

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Food Items	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
66.Money counting machines	7	15 percent
67.Machines for thermal pressing on book covers	7	5 percent
68.Air compressors	5	15 percent

Spare Parts	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
69.Spare parts for saloon cars & industrial vehicles	5	15 percent
70.Spare parts for motorbikes & bicycles	5	15 percent
71.Spare parts for machines & equipment	5	25 percent
72.Spare parts for tools & instruments	5	10-25 percent
73.Spare parts for home appliances	5	5-25 percent
74.Lighters	5	15 percent
75. Brake oil	5	20 percent

Iron & Timber	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
76.Galvanized wires	7	35 fils per 10 kg
77.Wicker	7	12 percent

Construction Materials	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
78.Glass wool	7	5 percent
79.Sand paper	7	40 fils per 1 kg
80.Acrylic sheets	7	10 percent
81.Plastic sheets	7	10 percent

Construction Materials	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
82.Drape rails and accessories	7	50 percent
83.Fiber hoses	7	10 percent

Storage Materials and Home Appliances	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
84.Pillow cases, towels, sheets & bed covers	10	30-100 percent
85.Knives, Spoons and folks	10	15 percent
86.Glassware & earthenware service sets	10	20 percent
87.Manual meat mincers	10	20 percent
88.Knitting rods	10	50 percent
89.Shaving blades	10	25 percent
90.Scissors of all types	10	15 percent
91.Small mirrors with frames	10	15 percent
92.Shaving blade holders	10	25 percent
93.Shaving brushes and creams	10	30 percent
94.Tooth brushes and pastes	10	20 percent
95.Shoeshine paints	10	20 percent
96.Children shoes	10	40 percent
97.Small brass locks	10	15 percent
98.Hinges	10	10 percent
99.Cots and beds	10	10 percent
100.Home sewing machines	5	15 percent
101.Head covers & yashmaks	10	25-100 percent

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Office Equipment	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
102.ID card pressing equipment	7	5 percent
103.Copiers	7	15 percent
104.Typewriters	7	15 percent
105.Printing equipment for transparent cards	7	15 percent
106.Peripheral equipment	7	15 percent
107.Cash registers	7	15 percent
108.Printing machines with offset	5	free
109.Equipment for making cliches & seals	7	10 percent
110.Printing equipment	7	5 percent
111.Paper rolls for calculators	7	10 percent
112.Lead & colored pencils	7	15 percent
113.Pencil sharpeners	7	15 percent
114.Erasers	7	25 percent
115.Ink ballpoint pens	7	30 percent
116.Wax, oil, and water paints	7	15 percent
117.Staplers and perforators	7	15 percent
118.Pins and eclipses	7	15 percent
119.Scotch tape	7	15 percent
120.Paper scissors	7	15 percent
121.File strings	7	15 percent
122.Seal wax	7	15 percent
123.Carbon & stencil paper	7	15-25 percent
124.Glue	7	15 percent
125.Box files	7	25 percent
126.Ink	7	15 percent
127.Mail envelopes	7	20 percent

Office Equipment	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
128.Rulers	7	10 percent
129.Geometry sets	7	10 percent
130.Ink sets	7	10 percent
131.Engineer's tools	7	15 percent
132.Engineering drawing boards	7	10 percent
133.Engineering sets	7	10 percent
134.Mechanical pens	7	15 percent
135.Paper cutters	7	15 percent
136.Paper for rolling cigarettes	7	3 fils per 10
137.Erasing equipment	7	25 percent
138.All types of glue	7	15 percent
139.Small copies of the Holy Koran [with approval of Ministry of Awqaf & Religious Affairs]	7	5 percent
140.Artist Tools & glass materials	7	5 percent
141.Notebooks and registers	7	25 percent
142.Paper for typing & engineering drawings	7	15 percent
143.Equipment for making book covers	7	5 percent
144.Sets of Writing pads and envelopes	7	15 percent
145.Illustration aids	7	8 percent
146.Colors for artists and students	7	15 percent

Agricultural Equipment and Materials	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
147.Yokes	5	15 percent
148.Hoes	5	15 percent

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Agricultural Equipment and Materials	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
149.Grafting knives	5	15 percent
150.Trimming scissors	5	15 percent
151.Spades	5	5 percent
152.Shovels	5	5 percent
153.Spare parts for cars and trucks	5	15 percent

Pharmaceutical and Medical Items	Percentage of Additional Custom Duty on Value	Custom Duty Under the Law
154.Safety pins for babies	7	15 percent
155.Contraceptives	7	8 percent
156.Car tires & tubes	5	300 fils per tyre
157.Machine tires & tubes	5	225 fils per tyre
158.Bicycle tires and tubes	5	175 fils per tyre
159.Pads & pastes for tire repair	5	10-25 percent
160.Liquid cells	5	40 percent
161.Dry cells [9 volts only]	5	15 percent

Arab League Informed of Allied Overflights

JN0811102395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0802 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (INA)—Iraq informed the Arab League of continued violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S., British, and French planes, flying from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, the Iraqi representative to the Arab League said that from 21-31 October, U.S., British, and French planes violated Iraqi airspace, carrying out 568 hostile air sorties. An list enclosed in the letter details those violations.

U.S. Airspace 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN0911084195 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq once again protested the violation of its airspace and national sovereignty by the U.S. U-2 spy plane, which was flown under the pretext of conducting an aerial survey for the UN Special Commission.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that this plane violated Iraq's airspace five times during last October, and that it flew from its base in the Saudi territories over large areas. He noted that the plane returns to the same base after conducting its mission.

He stressed that this plane is used for purposes other than those specified by the Security Council and that its activity violates Iraq's sovereignty and security. He also called for using Iraqi rather foreign means in the UN Special Commissions' operations to stave off any possibility of these operations being used to violate Iraq's sovereignty and security. He noted that the use of this kind of aircraft contradicts the objectives and principles of the UN Charter regarding respecting the sovereignty of all UN members states and their right to even-handed treatment.

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Rabin Widow To Lead Rally; Settlers Banned

*NC0911120295 Paris AFP in English
1149 GMT 9 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv, 9 Nov (AFP)—The widow of slain prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin will lead tens of thousands of people at a huge rally Sunday [12 November] in the memory of her husband from which settlers have been banned, organisers said Thursday.

"Le'a Rabin will be at the rally" at the Kings of Israel Square where Rabin was gunned down Saturday by a Jewish fanatic, a city hall spokesman told AFP.

The rally, organised by the Tel Aviv City Hall and its mayor Roni Milo, a member of the rightwing Likud opposition party, will mark the end of a seven-day period of mourning and will also be attended by dozens of Israeli singers.

The square, the largest in Israel, will be officially renamed Yitzhaq Rabin Square.

Security services have advised acting prime minister Shim'on Peres not to attend, Israeli state radio said.

The rally will be held under the same "Yes to Peace, No to Violence" banner as Saturday's attended by 100,000 people and before which Rabin sang the Israeli song of peace.

Another rally for peace will be held Sunday outside the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem, organised by the Peace Now movement, one of the organisers said.

Peres Notes Absence of Syrian Condolences

*TA0911094995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 9 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In his meeting with British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind in Damascus yesterday, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed satisfaction over the fact that there are fanatics in Israel as well, as evidenced by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's murder. Rifkind related this during his meeting with Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres this morning. In the meeting in Jerusalem this morning, Rifkind noted that President al-Asad spoke of his desire to advance peace and that Foreign Minister al-Shar' added that Syria has noticed positive signs emanating from Israel regarding this issue.

Peres said that if Syria shows a serious attitude, the basis for a dialogue will be created. He added, however, that Syria is not contributing anything to improving the atmosphere and has even abstained from expressing condolences to Israel, as other Arab countries have done. He recalled that Mr. Rabin and he himself sent letters of condolences to President al-Asad after his son Basil was killed. This is reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller adds that the British foreign secretary held a meeting with President Weizman this morning and is now on his way to Gaza to meet with 'Arafat and inaugurate a branch of the British Council. After being briefed by Rifkind, Weizman said he hopes to hear clearer voices coming from Damascus.

Assassination Suspects Remanded in Tel Aviv Court

*TA0911083395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 9 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Two more detainees were remanded in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning on suspicion of failing to prevent the murder of the prime minister. The two are Dror Hadani, 26, of Herzliyya, and Ohad Skornik, 23, of Tel Aviv. Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that Dror Hadani is suspected of conspiracy to commit an act of terrorism. Large amounts of explosives and weapons were found during searches in his house.

Fourth Suspect Arrested

*NC0911074195 Paris AFP in English
0718 GMT 9 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv, Nov 9 (AFP)—Israeli police have arrested a fourth suspect in investigations into the murder of prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin, police spokesman said Thursday [9 November].

Ohad Skornik, 23, from Tel Aviv, was due to appear before court on Thursday, said Eric Bar Chen.

EYAL Head Remanded; Leaders Act on Incitement

*TA0811183795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 8 Nov*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tel Aviv [as heard] Magistrate's Court has ordered the remand for a week of Avishay Raviv, the head of the radical right-wing EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] movement, on suspicion of conspiracy in the perpetration of a crime and failing to prevent it. Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that the police and security branches told the court that Raviv knew in advance of Yig'al 'Amir's intention to murder Prime Minister Rabin. Raviv claimed that his detention is political.

The attorney general has instructed the interrogation of all speakers from the radical fringes who expressed joy at the prime minister's assassination or who called for the repeat of this phenomenon. The attorney general stated this in a special announcement in which he

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also explained his appeal to the leaders of the various media to avoid direct publication and broadcast of fringe element invectives. The attorney general made it clear to the media leaders that he takes a very grave view of the repeated quotation of instigatory remarks which may constitute a breach of the penal code and the terror prevention order which ban seditious reports and public praise of murder. The attorney general says that broadcasting these remarks may be a breach of the law since they may very probably endanger life and public order. At the same time, he said it is possible to give indirect news reporting about the action of these elements.

Police Minister Shahal is opposed to wide-ranging changes in anti-incitement legislation. During Qol Yisra'el's "Five After the News" program Minister Shahal said we should be careful of a sweeping amendment as proposed by several elements since such an amendment may undermine the balance between the freedom of speech and the preservation of democracy. At the same time, the police minister emphasized that it is necessary to have a more focussed explanation of the legal definition of an instigatory act which requires enforcement.

Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit warns that rabbis who incite or call for murder will be dismissed from their posts. The warning was issued after a consultation Minister Shetrit held with the two chief rabbis and with their approval. The Religious Affairs Ministry will also stop funneling money to institutions which instigate murder. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that Shetrit decided to summon Rabbi Yisra'el Rosen, head of the Tzomet Institute in Alon Shvut, who releases a weekly circular to synagogues and who, for a long time now, has published articles in which he has denounced the government and called it a government of bloodshed. Rabbi Rosen will be required to denounce his remarks to date and to express regret. The religious affairs minister also called on the leaders of the Diaspora Jews to condemn every expression of incitement.

Group Believed To Plan More Than Rabin Murder

TA0911093195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dror Hadani of Herzliyya, who was remanded in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning, is suspected of assisting in the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The police believe he was a key activist in a terror group that had other plans in addition to the murder of Yitzhaq Rabin. Our correspondent 'Anat Peleg reports that his detention was extended by 15 days.

During searches carried out yesterday in the home of Yig'al 'Amir, police discovered demolition blocks, delay mechanisms, and other weapons. The police representative told the judges that this cache would not shame any terror organization. The judges were also presented with large quantities of classified material.

Our correspondent reports that Ohad Skornik of Tel Aviv, who was also remanded in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, is suspected of knowing in advance of Yig'al 'Amir's plan to murder the prime minister. He was remanded in custody for 15 days. Ohad Skornik is the son of Professor Yehuda Skornik, the surgeon.

Shahal Says Organized Group Behind Rabin Murder

TA0911122295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal believes that an organized group is responsible for the murder of Yitzhaq Rabin. Shahal told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky he does not believe the assassin could have operated without a technical infrastructure and the support of others.

Security 'Planning Foul-Up' Said Behind Murder

TA0811142995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The investigation committee set up by the Shin Bet to look into the assassination at Malkhey Yisra'el Square has determined that due to a planning foul-up, a critical part of the protective plan for the event and how to make this part secure was not taken into account. The planning foul-up resulted in an operational security foul-up. The planning foul-up was noticed during the event, but the instructions for filling the security loopholes, and the implementation of these instructions, were incomplete. As a result, the assassin managed to get deadly close to the prime minister. The committee looked favorably on the bodyguard who was wounded in the assassination.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that the committee was not asked about, nor did it deal with the performance of the Israel Police during the event. The committee pointed to the direct responsibility of the head of the national VIP security unit who approved the security plan, the head of the unit's operations section who oversaw the preparation and implementation of the plan, and the commander at the event. The Shin Bet head notified them of their suspension. The Shin Bet head also summoned the head of the security department and presented him with the conclusions and the decision to suspend him. The head of the security department

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asked to be relieved of duty, and his request was immediately accepted.

Peres' Life Seen as Most 'Crucial' Security Task

TA0811164795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 8 Nov 95 p 3

[Editorial by Yosef Lapid: "Watch Over Him"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people of Israel have sufficient moral fortitude, and Israeli democracy is sufficiently alive to prevent the collapse of administration systems and a disruption of normal life in the country in the wake of the prime minister's assassination.

This is provided history is not repeated. Apparently Yig'al 'Amir is not a lunatic after all. He is a terrorist who murdered in cold blood, who is convinced he was carrying out a mission commanded by heaven, and who remains untroubled and unrepenting. The place from which he sprouted has more weeds like him — we saw that Qiryat Arba' man on television waving a page with a cabalistic [Jewish mysticism] curse. One of these monsters may think that Yig'al 'Amir's job was left unfinished, that to put an end to the peace process, Shim'on Peres must be eliminated too.

If they harm Shim'on Peres, an internecine war will break out. The same masses, who obviously restrained their expressions of mourning this week, will take the law into their own hands in order to eradicate evil. And that would be a disaster.

Therefore, no security task is more crucial these days than a close watch over Shim'on Peres. He will probably try to show he is not afraid. He must not be allowed to do it. We must not allow anything to happen to him.

Netanyahu Receiving 'Numerous' Death Threats

TA0911095295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has received numerous threats on his life since prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination, Likud sources said yesterday.

Several Likud branches have also been vandalized.

Many of the threats have been received by Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv. Yesterday, a caller said: "Get a coffin for Bibi. Netanyahu is next... we will kill him," a Likud source said.

The sources link these calls to hostile graffiti and signs that have been appearing in the Tel Aviv area.

Near the Rabin's home in Ramat Aviv, someone has placed a large placard reading: "The Right has murdered again — as expected." Other placards say "Bibi, Rabin's blood is on your hands."

Some of the graffiti in Tel Aviv reads "Bibi is a murderer."

The Likud has also filed complaints to the police regarding vandalism that all but wrecked its offices in Ashqelon and Qiryat Bialik. The offices were daubed with paint and had "Likud murderers" sprayed on the walls. Windows were smashed, the premises ransacked, and furniture destroyed. Likud offices elsewhere were also targeted, although the damage was less severe. [passage omitted]

Ministry To Stop Funding Rabbis Inciting Murder

TA0811150995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit announced that rabbis who incite murder will be dismissed from their posts and the government will stop financial aid to religious institutions that instigate murder.

[Begin Shetrit recording] It was decided that any rabbi who voices support for acts of murder, especially after the terrible deed that was committed, will face proceedings to remove him from his post. [end recording]

Sarid on Inquiry Probe, Jewish 'Terrorists'

TA0811145895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by 'Adi Talmor; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Talmor] Good day, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid.

[Sarid] Good day.

[Talmor] Why did the cabinet reject your proposal for granting the state inquiry commission a wider purview than it ultimately received?

[Sarid] Why do you say that my proposal was rejected? I opposed any expansion of the commission's powers that could have political significance. I discussed the operational sphere. The original text referred to the security deployment, but I thought there was room to examine the intelligence deployment among terrorist organizations, and not just the level of protection accorded to political figures. In this case I am clearly referring to Jewish organizations. The decision reached by the cabinet eventually encompassed both the security

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issue as well as intelligence deployment. Therefore, my proposal was accepted.

[Talmor] But the inquiry commission's charter indicates that the investigation will focus exclusively on the night of the murder in Tel Aviv.

[Sarid] No, that is wrong. Read it again and you will see that the commission's terms of reference [last three words in English] are wide, especially seeing as there is another clause stipulating that the committee can submit as many conclusions and findings as it sees fit.

[Talmor] In other words, people could face prosecution in light of this commission's conclusions?

[Sarid] That is definitely possible, just as it is with any other commission of inquiry. However, such things will obviously take time.

[Talmor] Are there any limitations on the lenght of time for the investigation by the state commission of inquiry?

[Sarid] No, the cabinet is not authorized to issue a timetable to a state commission of inquiry. That is up to whoever appoints the commission. The official who will appoint the commission on the basis of the cabinet's decision is the president of the Supreme Court.

[Talmor] Did the ministers make any assessments of how long the inquiry would take?

[Sarid] No such assessments were made, but it is clearly not a matter of days or even weeks.

[Talmor] Was it a unanimous decision or were there some dissenters?

[Sarid] Two ministers thought that the investigation should be broadened, but the vast majority of the cabinet was against expanding the commission's purview in a way that would arouse any suspicion that we sought to involve political considerations in the inquiry, which is not the case.

[Talmor] Minister Sarid, what did you learn from the internal Shin Bet investigation?

[Sarid] The results of the internal investigation define the findings. The report speaks of a foul-up in planning and an operational failure. I think that this is an appropriate description. I therefore presented another proposal at today's cabinet session that we decide within the next few days on the establishment of a joint operational framework comprised of the Shin Bet, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the police, and the State Attorney's Office which will deal with only one thing: enforcing the law against any lawbreaker or against anyone inciting to commit murder against a political background. The new operational framework will be exclusively responsible for eliminating these hotbeds of Jewish terrorism. We must get this done within the next few days or we never will. Anyone who supports murder and identifies with murderers is in my opinion — and not just in my view, I believe — a potential murderer who belongs in prison. If the government does not take off the kid gloves now, it will be defeated by Jewish terrorists along with the whole foundation of Israeli democracy.

[Talmor] When you talk about taking off the kid gloves, what changes are you calling for in existing Israeli law?

[Sarid] I am not sure that legal changes will be necessary. This complex issue is still being examined. I think that the law book is full of clauses that are relevant and appropriate for every occasion. The problem was more a laxity in enforcing the existing laws. Many people who should have been behind bars made a mockery of the legal authorities and laughed in the faces of those who should have enforced the law and upheld public order. This phenomenon which was always untenable has now become impossible and must be stopped.

[Talmor] In conclusion, one last question. Did the internal Shin Bet inquiry commission specifically name those who were to blame for this fiasco?

[Sarid] I think so. The fact that four people — although one of them resigned voluntarily.... [pauses] I think that basically the Shin Bet should be praised. It is said that blame is always passed down to the lowest level; however, here we have a number of very senior officials, people of the very highest rank, and four of them, some of whom I know personally and have the utmost respect for as top-notch professionals....

[Talmor, interrupting] Resigned or were dismissed.

[Sarid, continuing] However, the system failed and the person responsible must pay the price.

[Talmor] Thank you, Minister Yosi Sarid.

Right-Wing Fears Public Opinion Shift to Left

TA0711144795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Nov 95 p 38

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Right-wing circles are concerned that there will be a shift in public opinion in favor of the peace process in the wake of Prime Minister Rabin's murder. "The myth that the public is divided into two equal parts that are either for or against peace has been shattered," right-wing sources said with concern. Left-wing sources also said that by its behavior,

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the public has shown that it supports Yitzhaq Rabin and the Oslo accords.

The demonstrations of mourning and deep public sympathy have given rise to apprehension in the right-wing camp that Rabin's policy enjoys a solid majority among the public. The fact that the assassin came from the right wing, even if from the fanatic fringe, contributes to this concern.

Similar assessments were made in the left-wing camp. Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss said that "this is the real referendum." Other Labor members said that apparently even Rabin himself underestimated the enormous public support for his policy.

Officially, however, none of the senior right-wing leaders confirm these fears. Knesset Member [MK] Moshe Qatzav, head of the Likud faction, said that the number of those who filed past Rabin's coffin is no indication of the support for the Oslo accords. "I myself, like many Likud supporters, filed past the coffin out of respect for the man and as an expression of our abhorrence for and disgust over the political assassination. This certainly does not mean we have turned into supporters of the Oslo accords."

A senior Likud MK said off the record that even if following the murder there has been a public shift toward peace, this is only a temporary phenomenon: "In a few days, people will sober up and understand that the Oslo accords are worthless."

Yisra'el Har'el, head of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, assessed that the public will "sober up" in a few days, at which time the "holy balance" between the supporters and opponents of Oslo will be resumed.

Avi Farhan, one of the settlers evacuated from Yamit, said: "We regret the fact that the Knesset speaker is cynically manipulating this tragic situation by saying that this is the real referendum. I came to bid farewell to Rabin, to protest the murder, and to demonstrate national unity, but this does not mean we have turned into Oslo supporters."

Ultra-Orthodox circles also believe the murder will strengthen the left-wing camp. HAMODI'A, Agudat Yisra'el's organ, writes: "The assassin caused unprecedented damage to the political cause he wanted to protect. With his own hands, he caused all the right-wing representatives to express support for a government headed by Peres."

Right-wing sources are also increasingly concerned that a Peres government, after being sworn in by the Knesset, will adopt tough measures against the settlers and uproot problematic settlements such as Netzarim and Hebron. Yesterday, however, a very senior Likud MK that these are unwarranted fears: "The Peres-Meretz government will not have the Knesset majority to take advantage of this tragic occasion to uproot settlements."

National Religious Camp on Response to Incitement

TA0811194595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yisra'el Har'el, the head of Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza [CJSJSG], proposes that sanctions be adopted against members of the national religious camp who deviate from the bounds of legitimate protest against the government. This was stated by Har'el at a gathering of hundreds of leaders of religious Zionism which took place at Bet Agron in Jerusalem this evening. Participating in the gathering, entitled "Soul Searching," were National Religious Party [NRP] leaders, the Memad movement [a center-right religious movement established in 1988], and the CJSJSG.

Zvulum Hammer, the head of the NRP, called for putting the house of religious Zionism in order, and for asking rabbis to clearly define the limits of what is permitted and what is forbidden in the political argument. Hammer called for soul searching and expressed shock at the fact that a person who wears a skull cap and who purports to belong to the national religious camp committed the crime. He called for the removal of members of the radical right- wing movements from this camp.

Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital, one of the leaders of the Memad movement, called on the left not to agitate against the right-wing camp, but according to 'Amital, the national religious public should make an outcry and engage in poignant soul searching in the wake of the prime minister's murder. Rabbi 'Amital triggered angry reactions from the audience when he said that religious Zionism educates its followers in primitive political thinking.

Sharon Seeks National Consensus; NRP on Talks

TA0911124195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ari'el Sharon is proposing that Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres devise a political plan acceptable to the national camp — a move that would necessitate amendments to the Oslo accords — in an effort to reach a national consensus. MK Sharon paid a condolence visit to Rabin's house in Tel Aviv this morning. In a talk with our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon, Sharon expressed

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the hope that nobody will use the terrible tragedy to restrict legitimate political activity.

The National Religious Party [NRP] has relayed to Labor a document that is meant to serve as a basis for negotiations between the two parties. The document was relayed by MK's Yahalom and Porat during a meeting with Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin today. After the meeting, MK Porat said the NRP will not join a Peres government but may prevent no-confidence votes from going against the government.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 9 November includes a related report by Daniyel Shani, adding that the document proposes that "the NRP will abstain in no-confidence votes and, in exchange, the government will not sign any political agreements until the elections. Beilin did not deny that such a document has reached his hands. He added that it will not be discussed during the mourning period, but he did not reject the proposal out of hand."]

Third Way, NRP Attitude Toward Peres Government

TA0811194795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 8 November reports that "Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani informed Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili at noon today that he is committed to the decision of the Third Way movement to prepare to run in the next Knesset elections. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Qahalani made it clear he would support the Peres government when it is formed and vote for the state's budget, but his vote for the government on political issues is not guaranteed."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 8 November adds that "the National Religious Party [NRP] offered Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres a safety net in the Knesset in return for a series of understandings in the political sphere. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the NRP leadership this afternoon discussed a document prepared by MK Sha'ul Yahalom under which in the coming year the NRP would not vote no confidence in the government if the government abides by several principles: not to conclude the next stage of redeployment in the territories; not to conduct negotiations over a permanent arrangement; and not to reach an agreement with Syria which includes any withdrawal on the Golan. The document also specifies additional commitments the NRP is asking for. Our correspondent notes that Yahalom's document was favorably received by the NRP leadership."

Impact of Rabin Death on Economy Viewed

TA0811190195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Nov 95 p 2

[Editorial by Sever Plotzker: "Stability and Continuity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past decade Israel has been seen as an enclave of domestic political stability. Israel was a state with exemplary democratic institutions, one in which governments were changed through elections, one where each government continued its predecessor's course. Any difference between the Likud and Labor economic policies was localized and limited, and it was certainly untrue to say that one pursued an economic line radically different from the other.

The peace process was another key element in favor of Israeli economy, for our standing in the world grew considerably stronger in the wake of it. Not a single survey by a foreign bank or investment house failed to note the positive impact on Israeli economy of the accords with the Palestinians, the peace with Jordan, and the new ties with Arab countries. The Arab boycott has been largely withdrawn, and Israel has been increasingly perceived as the hub of a new economic Middle East.

The "economic peace" has greatly improved our ratings.

And in addition, there was the "Rabin factor." In past years Israel had a prime minister, the late Yitzhaq Rabin, who took an interest and intervened in economic issues; who had excellent relations with high-ranking international economic figures; who appointed a special ambassador (Dov Lautman, Delta Textiles director general) to attract foreign investors; and who invested a considerable portion of his time and energy in the economy.

That was how the West began to view Israel as a modern, stable, and attractive economy whose prime minister was personally committed to its reforms.

The assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin will, therefore, have economic consequences, too. Although the Israeli economy's objective condition did not change after 4 November, the financial world suddenly perceived an Israel than was less stable, less confident, perhaps incapable of continuing the peace process in full swing. And it saw a country without Rabin.

The world of finance will be affected by it, at least for a while. The Israeli Government headed by Shim'on Peres must allay this world's fears with every means at its disposal. The government and the Bank of Israel must convey to the international business community a clear message that nothing has changed in Israeli economic policy, a message of stability and continuity. And, furthermore: Avraham Shohat must remain the

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finance minister in Shim'on Peres' government. Shohat has proven accomplishments to his credit. Peres can have no better finance minister.

Peres to 'Arafat: Agreement To Proceed on Time

TA0911055595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Acting Prime Minister Peres has assured PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in a telephone conversation that Israel will implement the interim phase agreement in accord with the set timetable.

The PLO Executive Committee is to meet in Cairo next Sunday. Palestinian sources say the decisionmaking body will review Middle East peace efforts following the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin and discuss a draft law on elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Peres 'Associates' Seek Pre-Election Peace Accord

TA0811124995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Nov 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Associates are proposing to Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to work toward attaining a comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors and the Palestinians in the coming year. In their opinion, a peace agreement with Syria and a permanent arrangement with the Palestinians could be attained in the coming months. Both agreements would be put to a vote in elections which would be held after their signing.

Some of Peres' associates have begun drafting position papers, which will serve as the platform of the government under his leadership, similar to "the 100-day team" Peres set up at the outset of his previous term as prime minister in 1984. [passage omitted]

These associates told HA'ARETZ that an agreement with Syria and a permanent arrangement with the Palestinians could be reached in the remainder of the government's term. They hope Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will change his mind and agree to step up the negotiations with a view to completing them within a few months. In their opinion, the negotiations with Syria could be advanced initially, seeing that until 20 January, when elections are scheduled to be held in the territories, the Palestinians will be busy with the implementation of the interim arrangement.

After he establishes his government, Peres is expected to go to the United States to present his detailed proposals for advancing the negotiations with Syria to President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [passage omitted]

Peres made it plain to all the foreign statesmen he met after Rabin's funeral that he intends to work hard to promote the peace process on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. Peres asked the guests to support the peace process, primarily to increase their aid to the Palestinian Authority.

In recent months, in his capacity as foreign minister, Peres raised detailed proposals for the advancement of the negotiations with Syria and the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. Peres believes that in exchange for peace with Syria, Israel must withdraw from the Golan Heights to the international border. He believes the format of the negotiations must change, and that rather than focusing solely on the security arrangements, simultaneous discussions should be conducted on all the components of the agreement: withdrawal, normalization, security arrangements, and the division of water.

Peres proposes to implement the arrangement with the Palestinians in stages, with a Palestinian state being initially established in the Gaza Strip while autonomy continues in the West Bank. Peres' goal is to set up a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation between two political entities. Most of the settlements near the Green Line would be annexed to Israel, while all other settlers would either remain in the Palestinian territory or be evacuated.

Sources Say No Clinton Promise for Special Aid

TA0811150895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Nov 95 p A5

[Report by Judy Maltz]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton promised, in talks with cabinet ministers, to take action to expedite the transfer of the regular annual financial aid to Israel. Finance Ministry and Prime Minister's Office sources said, however, that contrary to media reports, the U.S. President did not promise — and the Israeli Government did not request — special financial aid to facilitate the functioning of the government in the wake of the assassination.

The annual aid Israel receives from the U.S. Administration stands at $3 billion, including $1.8 billion in military aid and $1.2 billion in civilian aid. The civilian aid, which is received in October every year, was not transferred this year owing to a delay in the approval of the 1996 U.S. budget.

At the 6 November meeting, which was attended by President Clinton, Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, and Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish, a pledge was made

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that Israel would receive an advance of $144 million of the $1.2 billion by the end of this week. Clinton further promised that efforts would be made to transfer the remaining sum by 31 December.

EU's Key Role in Peace Process Viewed

MS0911102195 London THE EUROPEAN in English 9-15 Nov 95 p 11

[Article by Oded Eran, deputy director general for economic affairs at the foreign ministry and senior member of delegation to Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona: "Europe's Role in the Peace Process"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The funeral of Yitzhaq Rabin and the arrival in Jerusalem of so many world leaders were homage not only to the man but to the peace process itself. For Israelis, the gathering was an important message that the world stands by us and supports the peace initiative.

The tragic events of 4 November will not alter the course of economic and political development in the region.

Yet in a strange and perhaps not very logical way the recent economic summit of Middle Eastern and north African countries in the Jordanian capital Amman, the funeral itself, and the forthcoming EU-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona are all part of the same process of changing the Middle East. The European countries, and the EU can help to bring about this transformation.

We have already been active and very busy in the Middle East in forging ahead with economic development. In Amman, there was significant progress in founding new institutions — the Middle East Development Bank, the Middle East Business Council and the Middle East Tourism Association — to create an economic dialogue between countries of the region. It is a sign of maturity that we have been able to do so much in such a short time.

But what we need to do now is to generate economic activity, both in terms of co-operation between the states of the region and in terms of increased economic activity between the region and other parts of the world. This is where Europe can help.

There are two distinct areas of economic co-operation in the region. One is infrastructural projects and tourism. The other is trade.

In terms of infrastructure we will obviously need the know-how and experience of major European companies when it comes to airports bridges, roads, railways, power stations and the like. And we will need financial participation in these joint ventures, probably through the European Investment Bank. There is already a queue of major European companies which have sensed the political changes in the Middle East, and have understood their economic significance.

The main objective of the Barcelona conference at the end of this month must be to create a Mediterranean Free Trade Zone — and this is where Europe can assist the emerging economies of the Middle East. Europe's choice is between dealing now with the problem of its southern rim, or delaying the solution for ten years and having to deal with the unemployed arriving on its doorstep. That is why the conference is timely, important and significant.

This entails, for example, a willingness on Europe's part to buy more Middle Eastern products. Today and this is true even for Israel, one of the most advanced economies in the region — Europe is too protectionist, and the idea of free trade is not shared by all EU members. Agriculture is an important example. We understand the sensitivity of this sector in Europe but, given the structure of most of the economies in the Middle East, Europeans have to realise that for a period of ten or 15 years there will have to be a compromise between Europe's wish to protect its own agriculture and its desire to help the Middle East. There should be some strategic long-term co-ordination, and it can begin in Barcelona.

Europe also has to look at the question of co-production: products assembled in more than one country. Cooperation already exists between Israeli textile companies and those in Jordan and Egypt. But if the first part is produced in Israel and the second in Jordan the final product does not come under Israel's free-trade agreement with the EU. The only state in the region with a free- trade agreement with Europe is Israel. Hopefully, others will enjoy the same status.

In the diplomatic sphere, I will not pretend that in the past we have not had some tenuous moments in our relationship with Europe. But now that Israel and the Palestinians have embarked on a new course, we can put it all behind us. We have to recognise that Israel prefers political reconciliation with the Arabs to be conducted on a bilateral level. But there is a long- term role for Europe. In terms of strategic interests, Europe is closer and more sensitive to the Middle East than any other external region.

What happened in Israel on 4 November was a failure of political education, and not just the action of an extreme fringe group. We need to be honest ourselves and admit that murderers of this kind develop in a certain environment.

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The process of reconciliation between Israelis and Arabs also demands education on both sides. Europe has already gone through this historical process. We can draw from your experience, and create, with European help, new forums for dialogue.

We are happy that the EU is monitoring the forthcoming elections on the Palestinian side, and I am certain that there will be other opportunities for Europe to play a similar role in future. The death of Yitzhaq Rabin will not slow the momentum of Israel's bilateral talks with Syria and Lebanon, and EU monitoring of security arrangements on the Golan or in southern Lebanon is a distinct possibility once we have made peace agreements.

The mood in Israel will remain sombre, but the killing of Prime Minister Rabin can also be a spur to action. In seizing the opportunities for building a peaceful and prosperous Middle East, Europe can, and must, play a vital part.

Beilin Urges EU Support for Mideast Bank

MS0911112095 London THE EUROPEAN in English 9-15 Nov 95 pp 1-2

[Report on interview with Economics and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin, by Eric Silver in Jerusalem, and Paola Buonadonna in Brussels: "Union Boosts Israeli Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Union is seeking to bolster relations with Israel to help sustain the Middle East peace process through the crisis caused by the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The European Commission will ask governments in the next few weeks to give the green light for the almost immediate implementation of a trade agreement, pending the ratification of a full-scale association agreement.

As EU moves to support the new Shim'on Peres government went ahead, Israel appealed to the Union to use its influence on the country's behalf. In an interview with The European, Economics Minister Yossi Beilin urged Europeans to drop their opposition to the plan for a Middle East development bank approved at last month's regional economic summit in Amman, Jordan.

"It is time for the Europeans to go along with us and the Americans in establishing this bank," said Beilin, one of the architects of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and a candidate to succeed Peres as foreign minister.

Israel and the EU completed negotiations on the new trade agreement last summer. It is due to be signed before the European- Mediterranean conference in Barcelona later this month where the Israeli delegation is assured of a particularly sympathetic hearing.

Gabriel Busquets, the Spanish diplomat heading preparations for the conference, said in Barcelona that the delicate state of the Middle East peace process would be in the minds of all delegates at the conference. "Everybody will be aware that the peace process is a fundamental element to take into account," he said. "Even though the conference is not a forum for brokering peace agreements, it can help to strengthen them," he added.

The complex association agreement has economic, political and social elements. The social provisions, for example the introduction of cumulative pension rights for Israelis who have worked in a member state mean, that the document must be ratified by all 15 member states, a process that may take several months.

But the interim agreement, which could come into force from 1 January, seeks to put into effect the trade provisions that the Commission is entitled to manage on behalf of member states because of the internal market.

The EU and Israel have already reached an understanding on free trade for industrial products. To this the interim agreement will add concessions for agricultural products such as cut flowers, mandarins and sweetcorn, important Israeli export items, in exchange for a commitment from Israel not to apply new, higher tariffs on EU agricultural exports and meat and dairy products.

A Commission official said: "The final agreement will contain important elements on political dialogue between the two sides, which will commit both to frequent meetings at all levels. But it is important to set the machinery in motion as quickly as possible, with an early understanding on trade matters. We are very close to obtaining that."

Beilin said he was not asking Europe to be more generous to Israel, but hoped that the Union would do more to put the frail Palestinian economy on a viable footing. "In this way," he argued "Europe could help to create an economic safety net for the political agreement." Asked what the Europeans might do. Beilin proposed that they adopt one of seven industrial parks on the border between Israel and Palestinian self-rule areas. These parks, which would use Israeli expertise to create jobs for Palestinian workers, are in the planning stage but awaiting financial support.

"It would be very helpful," Beilin said, "if the Europeans take responsibility for one park. They could show that it can be done. They could also encourage investment in joint ventures."

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The Israeli minister stressed that he was not asking them to raise new funds. "We are speaking about a reallocation of money from the budgets — $12 billion in grants and $12 billion in loans already approved for aid over the next five years — to Mediterranean countries."

Beilin also urged the Europeans to use their economic leverage to coax Syria back into the peace process. Israeli-Syrian negotiations have been paralysed because, the Israelis claim, Damascus is not prepared to accommodate Israel's security needs if it withdraws from the Golan Heights.

The chief of the personal protection unit in Israel's internal security service resigned after a preliminary inquiry criticised bodyguards under his command for failing to prevent Rabin's assassination. Two other officers were suspended.

Savir: Syria Talks 'Slow, Indirect, and Petty'

TA0911082195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is determined to promote the peace process and is examining possibilities for advancing the negotiations with Syria. Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says the main problem in the negotiations with Syria was and remains President al-Asad's position and the fact that the negotiations on this track are too slow, indirect, and petty. Our political correspondent Udi Segal spoke with Uri Savir:

[Begin recording] [Segal] If Syrian President al-Asad really wants peace, he will find an Israeli partner. This was said by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir. Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told U.S. President Bill Clinton that over the next few weeks, we should examine the possibilities for advancing the negotiations with Damascus. The two agreed to explore the matter more deeply after the new government is formed. Uri Savir says that Israel is closely following the statements emanating from Syria.

[Savir] Look, the main question regarding the Syrian track was and remains not only President al-Asad's willingness to conclude a peace agreement but, even before that, to engage in real peace negotiations. The negotiations are too slow, indirect, petty, and narrow. If al-Asad really wants to live in peace, he should also know how to make peace; at this point, he does not know how to accomplish this.

[Segal] Hafiz al-Asad said yesterday that peace is not unattainable if the two sides sincerely want it. The Syrian president made these remarks to the British foreign secretary, who arrived in Israel from Damascus and is slated to meet with Peres in Jerusalem later this morning. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the assassination of Rabin may create a new opportunity for progress.

On the political front, Peres' aides are making it clear that the momentum will continue. Yesterday, for example, an initial discussion was held between officials from the Foreign and Finance Ministries regarding the results of the Amman conference, while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is continuing to implement the interim agreement on schedule.

[Savir] The implementation is continuing on a daily basis. Next week, we will witness the IDF's withdrawal from the first city: Janin. We are maintaining constant contacts with the Palestinian Authority.

[Segal] Savir says the Palestinians received the report on Rabin's assassination with amazement and sorrow. Sincere feelings of mourning and concern have been expressed in the Arab world and, for the first time, we are witnessing an emotional affinity stemming from a shared destiny. Savir spoke of the need to examine the political possibilities for continuing the peace process:

[Savir] I believe our determination to pursue the peace process will bring results and successes that will cause certain elements who currently have reservations to join the process. We witnessed the same phenomenon during the process with Egypt and our withdrawal from Lebanon. I believe we will witness it in the sphere of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process as well. [passage omitted]

Beilin on Syrian Call for Negotiations

TA0811195495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Interview with Economics and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by anchorman Ya'aqov Eylon in the studio and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eylon] Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen is outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Let's talk about the government under Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres with Minister Yosi Beilin who has just joined us. Peres' people have already begun defining the government's policy for the near future. What will it be?

[Rosen] First of all. One small matter regarding personnel, just to stop all the speculation. Several hours ago, Tzvi Alderoti, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said, following a meeting with Shim'on Peres, that he and all the other personnel at the Prime

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Minister's Office would remain in their positions. As for the future, I'll start with interesting news coming today from Damascus. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that he expects Peres to make progress toward rapid negotiations for peace. The Syrians are aware of Peres' position on the negotiations and they seek to accelerate the talks.

[Eylon] Let's listen to the statements made today by al-Shar' in Damascus.

[Begin al-Shar' recording, in Arabic] Syria believes — as we Arabs say — that something good will come out of the recent events in Israel. We hope that an opportunity that did not exist in the past will become available for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace, and that the peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track will take concrete steps forward. [end recording]

[Eylon] Good evening, Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Eylon] I think this is the first public reaction, on the record [last three words in English], from Damascus to what happened. I believe that to some extent the ball has now been kicked back into the Israeli court. Can you make any concrete response to what the Syrian foreign minister said?

[Beilin] I can start off by saying that this was a terrible reaction — to hear such talk about something good coming out of it. He does not even express regret about the murder. It is quite shocking to witness such a reaction. Second, I can tell the Syrians that the Israeli Government's policy has not changed. We are continuing along the same path. It was the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who said that the depth of withdrawal on the Golan Heights would be equal to the extent of peace. We are committed to the same formula. If the Syrians are prepared to accept this formula, which means that they will have the price of full normalization with Israel, we are prepared to start negotiations even at this stage. We have an entire year, I hope, in which we can make peace. If they think they are now dealing with a different government which is prepared to make concessions on vital issues that the previous government was not prepared to concede, then I can only say that they are mistaken.

[Eylon] Whichever way you look at it Mr. Beilin, it is and will be a different government. It will be a government with Shim'on Peres but without Yitzhaq Rabin. Can such a government proceed along exactly the same track?

[Beilin] Despite all the terrible pain over the absence of Yitzhaq Rabin, who will be sorely missed, I think that our job — and this is what he himself would have wanted — is to follow his path. We do not want to deviate from this path. We have set parameters on both the Palestinian and Syrian tracks. I regret to say that this is not the case with the Lebanese track because there is really no one to talk to there. We shall pursue this path. There is enough time to make peace. We have formulated a procedure with the Palestinians. Regrettably, that is not the case with the Syrians.

[Rosen] Minister Beilin, I would like to ask you something. You speak about continuing along the same path; however, I believe that Foreign Minister Peres, who is now the acting prime minister, held a slightly different view of the negotiations. Peres wanted to hold comprehensive negotiations with Syria on all the issues now, including the Israeli withdrawal, and not just to focus on security arrangements. If this is indeed Peres' policy, it will constitute a very significant change. Do you think that there is any chance or possibility of such a change in the negotiating policy?

[Beilin] It is possible that in various procedural issues, such as the question of what comes first, there could be a slightly different version. I would not attribute any real importance to this. I already stated some time ago that I am not at all sure as to whether the Syrians have reached a strategic decision to make peace. I hope that the issue will be seriously reexamined by the Americans. Israel's position remains essentially unchanged. As for procedural matters, I am not ruling out the possibility of some changes but I do not foresee this as having any effect on Israel's negotiating parameters.

[Eylon] Mr. Beilin, do you consider yoursef a candidate for the Foreign Ministry portfolio?

[Beilin] No, I do not consider myself a candidate for any position. I am very happy with my present post, and the whole issue of portfolios is not on the agenda at such an early stage.

[Eylon] Thank you very much, Minister Beilin.

Education Minister Sees Threat to Democracy

TA0811171695 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Studio interview with Education and Culture Minister Amnon Rubinstein by anchorman Dan Margalit on the "New Evening" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Margalit] One of those who criticized the leniency of the courts is Education and Culture Minister Amnon Rubinstein, who is a professor of law. Good evening, Minister Rubinstein.

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[Rubinstein] Good evening.

[Margalit] How were the courts wrong in their handling of the people who engaged in political violence?

[Rubinstein] Not just the courts but the entire legal system; starting with law enforcement, the police, and the prosecution, all the way to the courts. It was not so much the leniency of the sentences but mainly the interminable legal delays and above all, the fact that these people were constantly released on bail. I would like to stress here that although we are still in shock over the assassination, such a murder can occur in any society with lunatics. It happened in the United States. In the United States, although President Kennedy was assassinated, there was no threat to democracy. In Israel, this murder reflects a threat to the democratic regime. It manifests a threat to the democratic regime from two aspects: first of all, there is a respected female Knesset member [MK] from the Likud, No'omi Blumenthal, who said that anyone who refused to call Rabin a traitor and a murderer was warned that they would lose in the Likud primaries. I want us to understand this. Incidentally, I am not accusing the Likud. I am against generalizations.

[Margalit] You are accusing the Likud.

[Rubinstein] No, no.

[Margalit] You can accuse the Likud but it is a serious charge.

[Rubinstein] I am merely repeating what Dani Kohen, the director general of the Likud's Tel Aviv District, told Binyamin Netanyahu. Kohen said that since Netanyahu would not make such a statement, he, Kohen, was asking for Rabin's forgiveness. I am not accusing the Likud. The Likud did not want this. However, I would like to stress one thing. These cancerous cells, which are made up of thousands of people who believe that God speaks to them and orders them to carry out such acts, influenced the whole political system and its considerations.

[Margalit] I did not know you would be talking about the Likud and I did not invite anyone to the studio to respond to your statements. You are saying that the Likud should ask Rabin's forgiveness.

[Rubinstein] I am saying two things: One, the Likud is not responsible for this murder. I am sure that they were shocked. I am against any generalizations whether about the settlers or the religious public. I am merely quoting two Likud officials in order to prove that we are not just dealing with a certain group of murderous criminals. We are talking about a process that influenced the entire political system. In other words, a Likud MK said she was forced to participate in this.

[Margalit] Let us get back to the issues we invited you here to discuss. What are your complaints against the police, the prosecution, and the courts.

[Rubinstein] I think there was a failure of the legal system. Both I and Yitzhaq Rabin, on many occasions, warned of this. The courts reviewed every case on an individual basis and sought to uphold freedom and liberty. I greatly respect this and believe that they acted with the very best intentions. The entire legal system, which operated out of separate institutions, did not understand that we were dealing with a new phenomenon here: a threat to Israeli democracy. You arrest someone like that Ben-Gvir fellow [Kakh activist] and the court releases him. Why? I do not know. The judge frees him so he can appear on television and say that just as he tore the emblem off Rabin's car, he can get to the prime minister. This leads to a total collapse of law enforcement. Today, the police minister and other police officials told the cabinet that they could not enforce the law because policemen do not want to enforce the law in the Jewish settlements. Prosecutors are afraid to file charges because they are cursed and attacked. It is impossible to implement an arrest warrant in Qiryat Arba'. So this is not just the assassination of a prime minister, it is a threat to the very foundation of the democratic system.

[Margalit] Minister Rubinstein, one last question in conclusion. Earlier, I head Ze'ev Schiff say that you spearheaded the reservations expressed today with the charter given to the state commission of inquiry investigating the failure of the General Security Service. Do you share Schiff's criticism?

[Rubinstein] No, that was Minister Harish. I supported his position although I ultimately voted with the majority. The justice minister explained that expanding the commission's purview would arouse concern that it would have to get involved in political issues. I was not completely convinced about this. I believe that the commission's authority should have been broadened. However, the majority decision binds all of us.

[Margalit] Thank you, Minister Rubinstein.

Peres Leaves Rabin's Office Director in Place

TA0811184895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has asked Tzvi Alderoti, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, to continue in his post. Alderoti accepted the request. Peres also asked the other office

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employees to continue their duties on behalf of the same road and goal as was the case under the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. At a meeting with the director general, Peres praised the work of the office.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat says he does not expect economic stability to be undermined in the wake of the prime minister's assassination. According to Shohat, investors continue to visit Israel, and business continues uninterrupted. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Minister Shohat and his ministry's directorate this evening met with Acting Prime Minister Peres and updated him on the economic situation.

Peres May Cancel Direct Election of Prime Minister

TA0911053395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is reportedly looking into the possibility of canceling the law for the direct election of the prime minister. Qol Yisra'el's correspondent says he raised the matter with a number of cabinet ministers and senior Labor Party officials to check their positions on the matter. Most of them objected to the idea of repealing the law. Peres is known to have opposed the direct elections law.

Peres on Security, Free Speech at Cabinet Session

TA0811193595 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 8 Nov 95

[Issued by the cabinet secretariat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following are excerpts from statements made by Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during the Cabinet meeting today (Wednesday), 08.11.95:

"I do not propose to cover for anyone who bears responsibility. But I also suggest being careful not to make generalizations. As someone who has benefited from GSS [General Security Service] protection for many years now, I would like to say that this is a group of extraordinary people who have risked their lives more than once, and I would not want to do them a disservice, even if there are problems now.

"The same thing applies to the Israel Police. I think that the police have, in recent months, gone through several very difficult tests, and in my eyes, this engenders respect.

"And of course, the Israel Defense Forces, which ultimately gives all-around support, to as wide an extent as possible.

"Therefore, I very much recommend not to hurl accusations at either organizations or people. It will be for a state commission of inquiry to do its work; we will act accordingly. I think that this is the fairest way.

"There are several items that, I must say, shock me. I have not seen this anywhere in the world, that the media puts people on camera who call for murder. Where is such a thing heard of?

"There will be freedom of expression in the country, but not freedom to murder. When someone is murdered, his freedom of expression is taken from him; it is unthinkable that a murderer will be free to preach murder.

"I want to add something else. Just as I think that we should not accuse innocent people, we must also not hesitate to use all measures against people who incite, lead astray, and shoot. If I may be permitted to add a personal note — and it seems to me that I have earned this — I prefer to be killed than to be afraid. I am not — under any circumstances — prepared to be afraid. Whoever is guilty should go to prison. Whoever carries a weapon and intends to use it illegally, must have his weapon taken away from him — and it does not matter where he lives. If there are such inciters — and I say this to both the Minister of Justice and to the Attorney-General — they must be brought to trial.

"I do not understand all of this wavering. We have already seen the result. Does an incident like this have to occur again? The damage that this has caused us is irreparable.

"I want to say another two or three sentences about verbal violence. I am not asking anyone to change his opinion, but the calls of 'traitor', of 'selling out', and of preventing others from speaking, began in the Knesset. I believe, that the Government as a government, and we, as Members of Knesset, need to ask the Knesset to bring civilized debate back into a civilized framework. It is unthinkable, that 4-5 Members of Knesset should prevent the proper conduct of discussions in the Knesset, interrupt with catcalls, and spread baseless accusations. In reality, much of this verbal permissiveness began in the Knesset — it has been shown all week on television — and this is a very negative example.

"After the Cabinet meeting, it is the Cabinet Secretary's job to issue announcements on behalf of the Cabinet.

"I also wish to say, that a Cabinet member who would like his statement publicized, will do so through the Cabinet Secretary. I do not wish to have the Cabinet Secretary act solely for the Prime Minister. Should a Cabinet Member wish to have something said in his name, he should pass this on to the Cabinet Secretary,

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who will then publicize it. The only one who will speak after a Cabinet meeting will be the Cabinet Secretary, on behalf of the Cabinet. If that is acceptable, then we will accept it.

"I also want to take the opportunity of this first Cabinet meeting to express my deep appreciation to all of those involved who were responsible for organizing the Prime Minister's funeral: the IDF, the Police, the GSS, the Foreign Ministry, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministerial Committee for Symbols and Ceremonies and the Jerusalem municipality.

"I think that it was a rare funeral, both in circumstance and in character. It was a funeral worthy of the man, and in my opinion, correctly expressed the feeling both in and out of Israel.

"Quite naturally, many prime ministers and presidents were here, and we held talks with nearly all of them. The principle message of all of them was that they are prepared to help Israel in the peace process and I told them, on behalf of the Government, that from my perspective the policy of the government which Yitzhaq headed, will continue. In particular, I told President Clinton that everything that Yitzhaq told him obligates me as well, and there should be no room for any doubt whatsoever regarding the seriousness and commitment of this government to continue on that path.

Peres on Egypt, New Government, Rabin's Murder

NC0811204595 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has expressed his appreciation for the Egyptian role in the Middle East peace process played by President Mubarak and the concluded agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis. Peres praised President Mubarak's personality and leadership of his country, especially since he has been well known since the signing of the Camp David Accord.

In his statements to the television team today, he emphasized the importance of the Egyptian role in advancing the peace talks on the Syrian and Israeli tracks.

Commenting on the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Peres noted that it was a tragic incident, a first in Israel's history since it was founded.

Replying to a question on forming a new government, Peres said discussion had not begun and it has not been decided whether new parties will join the cabinet formation. He stated that his most important goal as government head will be the commitment to pursuing the peace process and implementing accords on the scheduled dates because winning peace is more important than winning elections.

[Begin recording] [Peres, in English] I know that President Mubarak was a pilot and President al-Asad is a pilot. I told him maybe you can meet in the air so we shall be able to meet on the ground. But, any attempt to contribute to bring the parties closer and to really pave the way for peace with Syria by an Egyptian-supported contribution will be appreciated by us.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] In which way?

[Peres, in English] Well, we talk to each other. We try to convince each other. We try to look for bridges to cover the gaps which exist between the positions of the Syrians and ourselves.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Mr. Prime Minister, according to the Oslo agreement the third phase of the negotiations on the Palestinian track is supposed to start in May next year. Is it enough to reach a final solution in these few months?

[Peres, in English] We have to start in May 199...[interview ends abruptly] [end recording]

Contacts Continue To Form New Government

TA0811142595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Several Hebrew-language newspapers on 8 November report on the ongoing contacts to form a new government and the efforts to broaden the coalition.

A report by Hemi Shalev on page 20 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV notes: "Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated yesterday that if he fails to broaden the government's coalition base he will disband the Knesset and call for early elections.

"Peres made these remarks yesterday in a meeting with British Prime Minister John Major. Peres said he feared it would be very hard to promote the peace process based on the current coalition's parliamentary majority.

"Senior Labor Party officials who spoke with Peres yesterday said that no final decision has yet been made, but that his remarks to Major reflect the mood prevailing in the party's top echelon.

"The officials said that Peres' efforts to broaden the coalition will focus mainly on the ultra-Orthodox parties, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and United Torah Jewry [UTJ]. They added that Peres would try to take advantage of his relations with UTJ functionaries and rabbis to persuade the party to join the coalition."

A report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, quotes Labor Party

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sources as saying that Peres' objective is to form a government as soon as possible. "His government may initially retain its current format, and only after it is established will an effort be made to incorporate other parties, as Rabin did upon the establishment of his government in 1992."

Although the chances of persuading the religious parties to join the government are considered slim, associates said yesterday that "Peres may agree to remove Shim'on Shetrit from the Religious Affairs Ministry and entrust this portfolio to a religious party if this is its condition for joining the coalition.

"Meretz announced yesterday that it would not agree to have the coalition contacts with the religious parties to be conducted without it or without consulting with it. Meretz believes that the government and the political process can be upheld in their current format without resorting to the religious parties."

Another Peres' associate is quoted as saying that "if Hayim Ramon insists on getting the foreign affairs portfolio and does not suffice with the interior portfolio Peres may agree to it if Ramon agrees in return not to contest Peres for the premiership in 1996. For his part, Ehud Baraq has already informed Peres that he does not plan to run against him. It is assessed that if Ramon is appointed foreign minister, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir will be appointed director general of the Prime Minister's Office. In that event, Yosi Beilin would be appointed interior minister."

A report by Amir Neumann on page 1 of Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON quotes Hayim Ramon's associates as saying that he "has made a final decision to return to the Labor Party and take part in the new government. According to these associates, although no decision has yet been made about the assignment of portfolios in the new government, it is clear that Ramon will be a cabinet minister in Peres' government. The associates believe that Ramon and Peres will be able to overcome the rancor resulting from the political crises in recent years."

A report by Shahar Ilan on page 6 of the same paper quotes UTJ Knesset faction chairman Avraham Shapira as saying: "If Labor understands that it will be worth its while to make concessions on religious issues important to us and meet us halfway, then I will have something to come with to the Council of Torah Sages.

"Shapira's position is seen as a new development, since he is not making the UTJ's integration into the coalition conditional on Meretz not being part of it. According to his associates, Shapira is leading the UTJ camp that supports being part of a coalition with Meretz, on condition that the latter is not given any portfolio dealing with religious matters, such as the ministries of religious affairs, interior, and justice."

On the other hand, MK Moshe Gafni of UTJ's Degel Hatora faction, is quoted as saying that "the fact that Meretz is part of the coalition is almost a total impediment." The report adds that Avraham Verdiger and Avraham Ravitz, the other two Knesset members of the UTJ, said two days ago that "there is no chance of the UTJ joining the coalition."

A report by Menahem Rahat and Tal Shahaf on page 21 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV notes that the National Religious Party [NRP] is split over whether to join the coalition, and quotes party leader Zvulun Hammer as saying that "despite its desire for national reconciliation, the party will find it hard to join the government based on its current policy."

On the other hand, the report adds, MK Yig'al Bibi "believes it would be better to join the coalition in order to curb what he termed dangerous processes. Voices in favor of the NRP joining the coalition to block what they termed 'Peres' race toward Oslo 3' were also heard among the settlers."

Court Rules Air Force Must Accept Female Pilot

TA0911120295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Sue Fishkoff and ITIM]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The High Court of Justice ruled yesterday that the Israel Air Force [IAF] must allow Lieutenant Alice Miller to take the preliminary tests for entry into its pilots' course and be admitted to the course if she qualifies.

Barring a short-lived experiment in the late 1970s, Miller, 23, would become the first woman admitted to the course in more than 40 years.

Eliyahu Matza, Tova Strassbourg-Kohen, and Dalya Dorner ruled in favor of granting Miller's petition, rejecting air force arguments that women's shorter military service made training them as pilots unfeasible. Justices Ya'aqov Qedmi and Tzvi Tal opposed the decision.

Writing the majority opinion, Justice Matza said women may be disqualified from certain military roles only when their sex would make a relevant difference to performing that task. With regard to flight training, Matza wrote, "There is no disagreement that the qualifications necessary for operating aircraft is to be found equally among women as among men."

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Yesterday's decision, which runs 74 pages, effectively opens the way to other young women who want to be IAF pilots, said Israel Women's Network attorney Rachel Benziman, one of the two lawyers who represented Miller. [passage omitted]

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Number of Iraqi Diplomats in Amman Fixed at 24

JN0911083295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T)—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti said Wednesday [8 November] the number of Iraqi diplomats in Amman has been fixed at 24 and that Jordan maintains 13 diplomats in Baghdad. The minister was replying to a JORDAN TIMES question on a report that the Jordanian Government had asked the Iraqi embassy here to reduce the number of diplomats. The Iraqi embassy denied that it had received any such request and that the number of Iraqi diplomats in Amman was around 20. The administrative staff at the embassy are not diplomats. Mr. al-Kabariti did not say when the number of Iraqi diplomats in Amman was set at 24, but according to diplomatic sources, the number has remained constant for some time.

Bahraini Minister of Electricity Arrives for Visit

Received by Crown Prince

JN0811212895 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water 'Abdallah Muhammad Jum'ah and the accompanying delegation. Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah attended the meeting. The two sides discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and means to reinforce and develop them in various fields, especially in the field of electricity.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said that Jordan is willing to cooperate with the brothers in Bahrain in all fields, especially since there is cultural and scientific similarity between the two countries. His highness asked the guest minister to convey his best wishes to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and to his highness the Bahraini heir apparent.

Mr. Jum'ah expressed the Bahraini Government's desire to borrow qualified Jordanian personnel from the Jordanian Electricity Authority to work in Bahrain and to benefit from their expertise in the field of electrical energy.

Discusses Cooperation With Prime Minister

JN0811103295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir Tuesday [7 November] met with visiting Bahraini Minister of Electricity and Water 'Abdullah Jum'ah and said he was deeply satisfied with the progress in Bahraini-Jordanian cooperation in economic and technical fields.

Al-Sharif Zayd added that Jordan is intent on bolstering its ties with the Arab countries in various fields and will exert all possible efforts to safeguard pan-Arab interests.

After the meeting, attended by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazeh and the Bahraini delegation, Mr. Jum'ah said that his talks with the Prime Minister covered bilateral relations and cooperation in electricity.

He also said he briefed al-Sharif Zayd on a tentative agreement which Bahrain reached with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) on joint work in the fields of electricity and energy.

Earlier Tuesday Mr. Jum'ah and Mr. Darwazeh held official talks and decided to set up a follow up committee comprising three members from each country and to be chaired by JEA Director General Muhammad Sa'id 'Arafah.

The two sides discussed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in water and electricity matters which will be signed Thursday.

Dr. Ahmad Hiyasat, Director of the JEA's International Services Department, outlined the two countries' cooperation in Water And electricity which began in 1989.

He said two technicians from the Bahraini Ministry of Water and Electricity are currently receiving training at the JEA's training centre in the areas of maintenance of transformer stations within the framework of a programme financed by the Japanese International cooperation Agency (JICA).

Following the meeting with Mr. Darwazeh, Mr. Jum'ah said that his visit to Jordan aims at familiarising himself with the JEA's services and increasing cooperation between the two countries in power generation, maintenance and designing of electricity networks.

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The memorandum, which the two sides plan to sign tomorrow, aims at opening the way for the exchange of expertise in all matters related to electricity and electric power management, according to a JEA statement.

The memo entails exchanging visits by technicians and contacting Arab and foreign financial institutions to secure assistance for joint Jordanian-Bahraini projects.

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Birri on 'Wasted' Chance Offered by Rabin Death

NC0811124895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has stated that Lebanon wasted the chance of benefiting from Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination by the festivities that took place [reference to popular celebrations following Rabin's death]. He added: We would like to ask: After this assassination can we claim that Lebanon is the home of terrorism?

Birri added that Lebanon lost a great enemy when Rabin was assassinated. But it does not mean we have scored a victory. He noted that Rabin, who occupied Jerusalem, has, in death, obtained recognition of Jerusalem [as Israel's capital]. [passage omitted]

'Dozens' Suspected of Mosad Collaboration

NC0911111795 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Nov 9 (AFP)—The Iranian-backed Hizballah and the Lebanese army have arrested dozens of people in south Lebanon suspected of collaboration with the Israeli intelligence service Mosad, AL-HAYAH newspaper reported Thursday [9 November].

An official security source, who declined to be identified, confirmed the report in a statement to AFP and said a secret investigation conducted by the military general prosecutor was underway.

Hizballah, which spearheads anti-Israeli operations in south Lebanon, said in a statement: "As part of its efforts to track down collaborators and suspects, the Islamic Resistance (Hizballah's armed wing) provides the concerned security authorities with all the pertinent information for them to carry out the appropriate measures."

AL-HAYAH, quoting political and security sources, said more than 70 people were arrested in some regions of south Lebanon, where Israel and a proxy militia control a "security zone" along the international border.

The arrests reportedly occurred in stages over the past three months in south Lebanon, parts of which are only controlled by Hizballah and where the Lebanese army has no positions.

"The suspects used sophisticated equipment to contact Israeli officers and spy on some parties and used coded messages," AL-HAYAH said.

One of the suspects who supplied residents of his village with electricity for a private generator, used a sophisticated wiring system to spy on them, it added.

The suspects aimed at providing the Mosad with information on Hizballah guerrilla movements to foil eventual operations against Israeli troops and their allies in the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the security zone.

A security source said eight suspected collaborators were arrested after Hizballah killed nine Israeli soldiers in two ambushes in mid-October.

Israel pledged after the attacks to strike hard against Hizballah.

Sources close to Hizballah meanwhile told AL-HAYAH that Israel recruited some of these agents outside Lebanon — in African and Scandinavian countries, Cyprus, Ankara and parts of Europe.

Earlier this year several suspected collaborators were arrested and "spy" rings dismantled after a deadly car-bomb in December 1994 in a Hizballah stronghold of Beirut.

'Resistance' Groups Attack Enemy Positions

NC0911083195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Report by Samir 'Alamah in the South]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance is still fighting the battle against the Zionist enemy and its Lahdist [South Lebanese Army, SLA] militia. Its groups attacked five enemy positions at dawn today, inflicting heavy damage on them.

As part of the series of operations for martyr leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, at 0520 this morning, the martyrs Muhammad Shihab, Ibrahim Shihab, and Bassam Hamdi groups of the Islamic Resistance launched a lightning attack using machine guns and rockets against the enemy's positions in Haddathah, Bayt Yahun, and Bra'shit, registering hits among their personnel.

At 0600 martyr Ahmad al-Sharqawi's group attacked the enemy's position in al-Suwayda' with rockets and machine guns, destroying the position's ramparts. Then martyr 'Ali Shuqyar's fire support unit group directed fire at the same position and scored direct hits.

Martyr Ibtisam Salamah's group attacked the 'Ali al-Tahir position with rockets and machine guns. The attacks destroyed the position's ramparts and fortifications.

The enemy began its aggression against the townships of Sujud, Mlita, and 'Ayta al-Jabal at 0300 today. The attacks were accompanied by strafing operations with machine guns from al-Rayhan, al-Zaffatah, and Muhaybib.

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At 0500 the bombardment was concentrated against the outskirts of Bra'shit, Tibnin, Bayt Yahun, and 'Ayta al-Jabal. It originated from the enemy's positions in Muhaybib and Mays al-Jabal.

At 0550 the enemy artillery in al-'Ayshiyah bombarded Mlita hill and at 0620 the Habbush River basin came under shelling from al- Zaffatah.

Judge Issues Verdict in Abduction Case

NC0911105095 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Saqr Saqr, the Jabal Lubnan investigating judge, has issued his verdict in the case of the attempted abduction of Hizballah official Hasan 'Izz-al-Din. Haytham Ibrahim Qazan and Hasan Husayn Hamdar are accused after having been convinced to take part by fugitive defendant 'Ali Faraj Talib. [passage omitted] The investigating judge prevented the trial of Haytham Qazan, Hasan Hamdar, and 'Ali Talib and demanded that the arrest warrant against 'Ali Talib be withdrawn; he decided that the elements of the crime of abduction had not been met and that the crime had stopped when the defendants Haytham Qazan and Hasan Hamdar were arrested.

The verdict stated:

In 1985, armed elements—including Hasa 'Izz-al-Din—allegedly belonging to a political party hijacked an American TWA plane from Athens Airport to Beirut International Airport. They detained its passengers and demanded the release of Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. After the plane took off for Algeria, negotiations with the hijackers failed, and the plane returned to Lebanon, other armed party elements imposed a security cordon around the plane as a precaution. To show their determination to hold on to their demands, one of the hijackers, namely Hasan 'Izz-al-Din, killed a U.S. marine and threw his body outside the plane. At this point the other party elements intervened, took hostages, and then released them.

In 1992, U.S. intelligence services took action to determine what happened on the plane and to identify the person who killed the marine. They asked their agent, fugitive 'Ali Faraj Talib, an "Amal" Movement official, to carry out this task. Consequently, Talib met with his maternal cousin Haytham Qazan, who belongs to the same party and who was one of the guards of the plane at that time. Talib asked Qazan to obtain the necessary information in return for large sums of money. Qazan went to his colleague 'Ali Sayf-al-Din, who had guarded the inside of the plane, and asked him for information. Sayf-al-Din promised to do this. The next day, Sayf-al-Din handed Qazan a paper in which he wrote with his own handwriting what happened inside the plane, including that Hasan 'Izz-al-Din was the one who killed the marine. Qazan carried the paper and handed it to 'Ali Talib, who rewarded him with 100,000 Lebanese pounds. Talib then left for the United States. After a week, Talib contacted his relative Qazan, gave him his telephone number and address in the United States, and asked him to take pictures of Hasan 'Izz-al-Din and to send the pictures to him.

Qazan tried to fulfill Talib's request but could not because Hasan 'Izz-al-Din was always surrounded by bodyguards. After two months Talib returned from the United States, bringing with him a camera fitted with a computer screen and a "zoom." Talib urged Qazan to take pictures and gave him $400. The next day Qazan met with his nephew Hasan Hamdar in Talib's house and told him of the mission and its details. Both of them received a sum of money in return for a quick implementation of the mission. After three days Qazan and Hamdar followed Hasan 'Izz-al-Din and took pictures of him near his daughter's school in al-Ghadir. But the pictures were not clear. Talib asked them to try again. He bought for them a van and another vehicle for this purpose. He also worked with them in taking pictures, which turned out not to be clear. After several attempts, Qazan and Hamdar took the required pictures and gave them to Talib, who gave them a sum of money. Talib took the pictures to the United States.

After Talib returned from the United States, he entrusted Qazan and Hamdar with another mission that they implemented in return for a sum of money. He asked them to take the fingerprints of Hasan 'Izz-al-Din and to record his voice on a cassette. They also carried out this mission. Talib then left for the United States. After one month, he contacted them and asked them to stop watching Hasan 'Izz-al-Din because they had been exposed.

The surveillance of Hasan 'Izz-al-Din did not stop at this point. Talib asked Qazan and Hamdar to carry out other missions. Early in August 1994 Talib returned to Lebanon and met with his relatives Qazan and Hamdar without telling them anything or asking them anything regarding Hasan 'Izz-al-Din. On 7 August 1994, Talib contacted the United States. He was asked to go to Cyprus. One week after his return from Cyprus he informed Qazan and Hamdar that U.S. intelligence services had asked him to kidnap Hasan 'Izz-al-Din and to deliver him to a U.S. warship in the open sea. He asked them how much the operation would cost. He also told them that the plan called for buying fast cars, a naval boat, and Lebanese Army or state security uniforms for use in the abduction operation and the transfer of the kidnappee in the open sea. He told

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them that he was awaiting the necessary funds for this operation.

Three days after the three defendants studied this plan the Lebanese security services arrested Haytham Qazan and Hasan Hamdar as they were leaving Talib's house; Talib escaped. [passage omitted]

Since the three defendants discussed a plan to kidnap Hasan 'Izz-al-Din and decided to implement it by buying military uniforms, fast cars, a naval boat, and other things; since everything stopped at this point and did not reach the stage of preparatory acts even according to the legal meaning of these acts—that is, buying and preparing these items; since the preparatory stage is immune from punishment because it is does not constitute one of the elements constituting the crime; since the determination of and planning by the defendants do not constitute an abduction crime and accordingly do not constitute a criminal attempt; it is therefore necessary to stop their trial for lack of criminal evidence.

Therefore, in accordance of Article 131 of the criminal law, we have decided contrary to the request of the prosecutor to:

1. Stop the trial of 'Ali Faraj Talib, Haytham Ibrahim Qazan, and Hasan Husayn Hamdar on charges of an abduction attempt.
2. Withdraw the arrest warrant against 'Ali Faraj Talib.
3. Release Hasan Hamdar if he is not detained on other charges.
4. Suspend the fees and expenses.

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Britain's Rifkind Continues Official Visit

Meets With al-Asad

JN0811130395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and his accompanying delegation at the People's Palace at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in London Muhammad Khadir, and British Ambassador to Syria Adrian John Sindall.

Talks were held between the Syrian Arab side, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the British side, headed by Malcolm Rifkind, British Secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur; 'Abd al-Hasib Ustuwani, director of the West Europe Desk; Muhammad Khadir, Syrian ambassador in London; Bushra Kanafani, director of the Information Department; and Dr. Mikha'il Wahbah, director of the special offices [al-makatib al-khassah]. [passage omitted]

Talks dealt with the situation in the region, peace process developments, and relations between Syria and Britain and means of promoting and expanding them in various areas.

Al-Asad: Peace Not Impossible

JN0811201095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] President al-Asad received Malcolm Rifkind, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, and his accompanying delegation at the People's Palace at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in London Muhammad Khadir, and British Ambassador to Syria Adrian John Sindall.

Talks centered on the peace process. Rifkind asserted that Britain was interested in this process and expressed his appreciation for Syria's role in the region and in the peace process. He also said that he believed Syria wanted peace.

President al-Asad said that attaining peace was not impossible if there was a true and serious desire and a determination by the concerned parties. Al-Asad and Rifkind also tackled bilateral relations and expressed their satisfaction with them so far. Rifkind said that London and Damascus have a mutual desire to improve bilateral relations. President al-Asad welcomed Britain's desire to improve bilateral relations, and said there was nothing preventing such an improvement.

Al-Asad Said 'Ready To Move Ahead'

MS0911104295 London INDEPENDENT in English 9 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Michael Sheridan: "Al-Asad: I Can do Business With Peres"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria said yesterday he is ready to move ahead quickly towards a peace settlement with Israel's acting prime Minister, Shim'on Peres, in the aftermath of the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin.

Mr al-Asad told the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, he believed the "technical obstacles" to a deal were not insurmountable. Mr Rifkind was the first foreign emissary to President Hafiz al-Asad of meet the Syrian leader since the murder of Mr Rabin by a Jewish extremist last Saturday. "He said it was Syria's desire to see a successful achievement of peace negotiations and he believed this could be achieved very quickly," Mr Rifkind told reporters.

The president's remarks were the first Syrian reaction after the assassination of the Israeli premier.

Mr Rifkind gave the Syrian leader a first-hand account of his talks with Israeli ministers at Mr Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem. Mr al-Asad apparently listened with close attention and repeated forcefully: "Yes I am committed to peace."

This morning the Foreign Secretary will communicate his impressions of the two-hour meeting with President al-Asad directly to Mr Peres in Israel. It is understood that the Syrian president told his visitors that Syria knew Mr Peres well and believed him to be serious in his commitment to peace.

Mr al-Asad also made it clear that the killing of Mr Rabin had caused the Syrians to reconsider their misconception that Israeli leaders did not face violent domestic opposition to a compromise peace deal.

Syria is the key hardline Arab state that has not yet made peace with Israel and a settlement would also include Lebanon.

But talks between senior Israeli and Syrian officers have stalled over the conditions and extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

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The Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara, said it was possible that Mr Rabin's assassination — which he has privately described as "tragic" — could contain a "silver lining" in the shape of an opportunity to speed up negotiations.

Mr Rifkind flew to Tel Aviv from Damascus last night and will meet the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza today.

Al-Shar', Musa Hold News Conference

JN0811201595 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, and Malcolm Rifkind, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, have answered journalists' questions at the VIP lounge at Damascus International Airport.

Answering a question on his assessment of the results of his visit to Damascus, Rifkind said: It was an extremely good visit. We have held vital talks on relations between Syria and the United Kingdom, which move from good to better.

He added: This visit was a very important opportunity to discuss the Middle East peace process, and to hear Syria's viewpoint on this.

He noted: The United Kingdom believes that there is a historic opportunity to make progress in the peace process between Syria and Israel. It seems that there is a great interest in making progress at this stage. We hope that disappointments which we used to face in the past will be replaced by progress and and an encouraging view toward advancing this process.

Answering a question on Syria's viewpoint on the peace prospects in the near future and about his personal reaction to the assassination of Rabin and Syria's assessment of the political consequences as a result of this, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: Syria is still committed to the peace process and to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace based on the international legitimacy, the UN resolutions, and the land-for-peace formula.

He added: We have always believed and we still believe that if the Israeli side is serious about making tangible progress in the peace process on the Syria track, Syria will be ready for such progress.

Al-Shar' said: Syria believes that the recent developments in Israel would provide an opportunity, which did not exist in the past, to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track would also make steps forward. Regarding what we have heard from Secretary Rifkind to the effect that he is optimistic and that the future stage would provide an opportunity to achieve a true progress in the peace process, we hope that this optimism will be in the right place.

Asked about the step he believes Israel should take, Rifkind said: I believe there have been many years of mistrust and doubts. He added: I also believe that from the premise of the evils that have resulted from Rabin's assassination, a new initiative could emerge to complete the peace process. Although this will not be easy, I believe that many people in Syria and Israel believe that this is now possible.

On whether it is time for direct meetings between Syrian and Israeli ministers, al-Shar' said: In fact, Syrian-Israeli talks have been on hold since June. We explained on more than one occasion that the delay in the resumption of these talks is due to the Israeli stand. He said: Something good might result from something bad. The Israelis may feel in these moments that peace is in their interest and in the interest of all parties. They also should know that peace will reduce, if not end, extremism and blind escalation, that extremism also exists in Israel and works against peace, and that the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region is the real answer to the attainment of stability and security in the region.

On whether he feels that Rabin's assassination shows how strong the extremist Israeli right wing is and whether this makes him feel that Syria should expedite the peace process before the Israeli elections in which the right wing could win more power, al-Shar' said: We believe that the Israeli Government's hesitation and procrastination with respect to the attainment of a comprehensive peace in the region over the past years has increased extremism and bigotry, and has given these extremists and bigots the chance to hamper the peace process. Had peace been achieved on all the fronts during the past period, perhaps what took place in Israel would not have materialized. That's why we believe that expediting the peace process is the positive reply that would prevent further violence and tension in the region.

Rifkind intervened by saying: May I add to what al-Shar' just said? I believe that the entire peace process between Syria and Israel can be revived once again. He added: When I met His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad earlier today, he emphasized Syria's eagerness to see a successful completion of the peace negotiations. This can be quickly realized and I hope that this is Israel's wish too. When I meet Mr. Peres, most probably

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tomorrow, it is important for him to know that Syria has always been eager to achieve peace as soon as possible.

Further on News Conference

JN0911095395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first official Syrian comment on Rabin's assassination and the assumption of the Israeli premiership by Peres, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: Something good might come out of something bad.

Al-Shar' added: It is our hope that an opportunity that did not exist before for just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the Middle East will become available, and that peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations will make palpable progress.

Al-Shar' reiterated Syria's adherence to the peace process on the basis of international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace formula.

For his part, UK Foreign Secretary Malkolm Rifkind indicated, at a joint news conference with his Syrian counterpart after a round of talks with President al-Asad, that there is a big opportunity for peace in the region, and also for progress in talks between Syria and Israel at this point.

The official report issued by the Syrian Presidential Palace quoted President al-Asad as saying that peace is not impossible to achieve if there is a true and serious desire for it, and also if there is a determination to achieve peace on the part of the parties concerned.

Rifkind Leaves Damascus

JN0811170295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Malcolm Rifkind, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, left Damascus this evening after a brief visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador in London, the British ambassador in Damascus, and British Embassy staff.

Paper Views Visit, Peace

JN0911072295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Peace is Not Impossible to Achieve," the newspaper TISHRIN says: During his talks with Malcolm Rifkind, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that peace is not impossible to achieve if there is a true and serious desire for it on the part of the parties concerned. Regarding the Syrian peace stand, the UK foreign secretary appreciates Syria's role, emphasizing that Syria has a desire for peace.

TISHRIN adds: An attempt on our part to explore the prospects of the peace process in light of the current circumstances and climates and the stalemate that has plagued this process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations has shown that peace most requires practical measures and practices to make it a reality. Syria, whose serious and true desire for peace on the basis of the relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the land-for-peace formula is attested to by all, is asking all parties to bear their responsibilities. This is necessary if the peace requirements are to be met. It should be recalled that the international community has called for the dismantlement of occupation, and for returning occupied lands to their owners.

The paper concludes by saying: Syria alone cannot achieve peace, because the achievement of peace requires the involvement of other parties. It is in everybody's interest to achieve peace. And to promote these interests, Israel needs to drop its bizarre proposals and abandon its intransigent positions.

In a commentary entitled "Facts," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: While following, along with the world community, regional developments, we see a real and urgent need for the revitalization and activation of the peace process. Likewise, we find ourselves faced with a host of facts that cannot be overlooked. These facts are the following:

First, Syria's seriousness in the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace is no longer questioned by international observers or U.S. officials, who have continued to commend the serious and credible Syrian approach toward the cause of achieving just and comprehensive peace.

Second, Syria, which has opened the doors wide for the peace process launched in Madrid, has, by favorably responding to U.S. efforts, repeatedly worked to revitalize the peace process and the bilateral talks whenever this process and these talks ran into snags due to Israel's intransigence, and to its adherence to ideas that are far removed from the basics of peace.

Third, the ostentatious peace deals concluded thus far have failed to bring peace or achieve regional stability and security.

Fourth, the Israeli Labor Party, whose election platform was dovish and pro-peace, has actually failed to take the

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required positions to push for a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: A careful examination of these facts, and of this critical juncture in the peace process shows that the achievement of peace requires a firm decision. As for Syria, it has made up its mind in this regard. It has honestly worked to achieve peace. By contrast, Israel has yet to make such a decision in order to facilitate the achievement of a breakthrough that could make up for lost time and push the peace process in the direction of just and comprehensive peace.

Radio: Peace Constitutes 'Strategic Option'

JN0811153295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: To peace-loving states and forces, peace is a strategic option. Syria has made peace its strategic option, and it is seeking peace because it is larger than security and constitutes a true guarantee for it. But without security, we cannot talk about stability and prosperity. A strategic option is a top priority, and any delay in achieving such a goal will be part of the efforts of hostile forces. Peace can take place only between two or more parties. Therefore, the peace process is complicated in itself because it is required to take the conflicting interests of all parties into account.

If any party tries to use internal or external factors, as well as the peace dialogue, to serve its private projects and interests, the peace process will be undermined or exposed to storms. Peace should be just and comprehensive, and in order to be so, it should be based on the principles, which the concerned parties accepted and used to start the peace process. These principles are clear and frank and constitute a solid basis for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace because they stipulate the need to remove the occupation. This is the essence of the U.S. initiative and the resolutions of the Security Council, which represents international legitimacy.

It is clear that occupation contravenes peace, and that no peace can prevail under occupation. Proceeding from this principle, the U.S. initiative, which constitutes the beginning of the peace process, stipulates land for peace, that is, total withdrawal in exchange for just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Hence, any attempt to partition the conflict and peace will not serve the peace process or efforts to effect a just and comprehensive peace. A comprehensive vision of the region requires comprehensive vision of peace. Any attempt to discount this vision, which is based on facts, will not succeed in evading the peace process and the region's future.

Therefore, just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative should be a top strategic option for the entire region. Syria has always been ready to achieve such a peace.

Israeli Inclusion in Regional Order Viewed

JN0911081895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary entitled "Between Mediterraneanism and Mideasternism," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: For some time, there has been much talk about the concepts of Mideasternism and Mediterraneanism, which apparently involve economic, geographic, and regional factors, but as a matter of fact involve far-reaching political and cultural dimensions that directly and thoroughly influence the Arabs' future and destiny, particularly since the basic pivot of the two concepts is the Arab homeland.

AL-BA'TH adds: In excessive efforts to perplex the Arabs, intensive attempts have been made to confuse concepts, as happened by some who attended an international seminar held in Tunis in early November under the motto "New Horizons for European-Mediterranean Ties." These continuous attempts are intended to render Mideasternism as the basic and overriding concept. That is, Mediterraneanism is meant to be subordinated to Mideasternism. Even the talk on rebuilding a regional Arab order is meant to be relegated to oblivion.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: In the course of these deliberate attempts at confusing minds, it has been said that the Barcelona summit, which will convene shortly, is a continuation of the Casablanca and Amman summits. Consequently, it is argued, it will serve the cause of Mideasternism.

AL-BA'TH believes that the concept of Mideasternism is different from the concept of Mediterraneanism, which is the essence of the Barcelona summit, because the modern concept of Mideasternism is based on the assumption that the partial and separate deals concluded thus far will promote peace, and consequently prepare for the creation of a Middle Eastern order. Israel is meant to be part of this order. As a matter of fact, it is meant to lead this order and to impose its economic and cultural hegemony after it has secured its military hegemony and domination, the paper contends.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The foundation on which Mideasternism is based is doctored, because the

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artificial peace concluded in accordance with secret and conspiratorial schemes is unviable. Moreover, the espousal of Mideasternism amounts to rewarding the aggressor and imposing an economic, cultural, and social normalization without expecting Israel to reciprocate this by subscribing to the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

'Basic' Changes in Israeli Positions Urged

JN0911100895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 9 Nov (SANA) — [passage omitted] For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Syria, which made peace a strategic option and placed it on top of its political concerns, will not waver on its comprehensive vision of the solution. It will continue to hold fast to the foundations and principles provided for in the resolutions of international legitimacy, the paper adds.

In its commentary, the newspaper notes: All those who visited Syria and held talks with its leaders, undoubtedly sensed Syria's commitment to the objective requirements of peace and readiness to establish full peace in return for a complete and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Regardless of anything, Syria will continue to proceed along the path of a just and comprehensive peace, especially if it sees an Israeli readiness to comply with the conditions and requirements entailed by such peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Rabin's successors should realize that delay, procrastination, and squandering time is not in the interest of peace. They should also realize that unless there are basic changes in the Israeli positions, which were characterized with obstinacy, inflexibility, and procrastination, the hopes of peace will dwindle and perish — they will be replaced with despair and frustration.

Loan Agreement Signed for Irrigation Project

JN0811134595 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 pp 1,11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus [SANA] — Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi yesterday received Badr Mishari al-Humaydi, director general of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, and the members of his delegation. The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. The discussion during this meeting revolved around the fund's activities in Syria.

Meanwhile, an agreement was signed between Syria and the Kuwaiti Fund under which the fund will offer a loan of 10 million Kuwaiti dinars as a contribution toward financing the third phase of al-Khabur irrigation project. [passage omitted]

The total cost of the project is 15 billion Syrian pounds, or 105 million Kuwaiti dinars. The loan makes up one tenth of the total project cost, or 26 percent of the cost in foreign currencies. Work on the project began in 1992 and it is expected to be completed in the middle of 1996. [passage omitted]

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Afghanistan

UN Envoy Mestiri Reportedly Meets With Rabbani

LD0811214795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud Mestiri, special UN envoy for Afghanistan affairs, left this morning for Kabul to hold talks with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. In today's meeting with the president, Mestiri is to convey the response of the opposition groups regarding the formation of a joint commission to select a person or a commission to whom power can be handed over and the conditions for a cease-fire.

In his previous meeting with the Afghan president, Mestiri handed to him a new plan. According to this plan, representatives from various groups in Afghanistan will be gathered to form a commission. This commission will appoint an individual or a group of people to whom power can be vested. According to this plan, the Afghan Government will soon hand over power to a person or persons appointed by the commission.

Presents Report to Rabbani

LD0811182995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], met this afternoon with Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general.

At this meeting, Mahmoud Mestiri presented a report to the president on his endeavors and expressed appreciation for the ISA's measures toward a solution to the issues of Afghanistan.

The esteemed president gave Mestiri detailed information regarding the current situation in the country and actions by the ISA for finding a solution to the issues through talks and understanding.

Deputy Foreign Minister Abdorrahim Ghafurzai this morning met with Mahmoud Mestiri in his office. At this meeting, both sides held detailed talks on resolving the issues in Afghanistan and the UN efforts toward this end.

Mahmoud Mestiri arrived this morning in Kabul. He was welcomed at Kabul Airport by high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Says 'Peace Mission Has Ended'

LD0811213495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After a meeting with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani on Wednesday [8 November] afternoon, the UN envoy for Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri declared his peace mission has ended.

According to a report from Kabul by the Central News Unit, at the end of the meeting at the presidential palace in Kabul, Mestiri said: Now that the warring factions in Afghanistan are trying to resolve their differences among themselves, I see my mission as having come to a halt.

It should be mentioned that the Afghan presidential palace was attacked by the Taleban group's long-range artillery on Wednesday morning.

Pakistani Minister, Rashid Dostam Reportedly Meet

BK0811155095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali was warmly received by the Afghan leader, General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, and the governor of Jowzjan, Dr. Karim Zaraik, when he arrived at Sheberghan in northern Afghanistan. He was invited by Gen. Dostam. During his one-day visit to Sheberghan, the foreign minister had a substantive exchange of views with the Afghan leader on the situation prevailing in Afghanistan. Both leaders reaffirmed their continuing commitment to restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Both Urge Kabul 'Regime' To Step Down

BK0811154395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali paid a one-day visit to northern Afghanistan yesterday at the invitation of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. The foreign minister had a substantive exchange of views with Gen. Dostam on the internal situation in Afghanistan. They reaffirmed their commitment to the restoration of peace and stability in that country. Both leaders agreed that as a first step toward peace, the present regime in Kabul should relinquish power unconditionally and remove its security personnel from the capital to pave the way for the establishment of a broad-based government.

The foreign minister is planning to visit other provincial capitals in Afghanistan so as to continue the process of

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negotiations with other Afghan leaders to find a durable and peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

Army Reportedly Kills 54 of 'Bhutto's Taleban'

LD0811183295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fifty four of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban were killed in the south of Kabul during the past three days.

Reports received by BAKHTAR say that 54 men of Benazir Bhutto's Taleban were killed in Charasiab district and in the headquarters of the Taleban around Charasiab during the past three days, as a result of the Islamic army's aerial and artillery attacks. During the air attack, two infantry combat vehicles and two trucks carrying ammunition for the Taleban group were eliminated. Two of their motor vehicles were damaged. In order to remove the dead bodies, the Taleban group forces the elders of Charasiab to remove bodies from the front lines.

The massive loss of Taleban men has further lowered Benazir Bhutto's Taleban morale. [Passage indistinct]

Taleban Rocket on Kabul Reportedly Kills Seven

LD0811181895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban have again rocketed the residential areas of Kabul city.

Bakhtar reports that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban today fired 14 rockets, killing 7 citizens of Kabul and wounding another 24 persons.

The rockets fired today were launched from the south and south- western directions. In addition to the loss of life, the rockets caused material damage to residential houses.

India

Article Addresses U.S. 'Role' in Kashmir

BK0511072395 Madras THE HINDU in English 2 Nov 95 p 12

[Article by Nikhil Chakravartty: "The U.S. 'Role' in Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALTHOUGH the Government has practically disowned the Indian Ambassador, Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray's angry outburst at the U.S. Congressional Conference overwhelmingly backing the Hank Brown amendment lifting the arms embargo on Pakistan, there is little doubt that the episode marks the fiasco of the Government's lobbying in the Capitol Hill betraying the ignorance of the very basics of the U.S. policy in South Asia. This has brought out into the open the present Government's appalling lack of any perspective on foreign affairs.

It would be unfair to blame our foreign Office or our Ambassador in Washington for this miscalculation. As could be noticed in other theatres of international development, the Government has been moving on a precariously hand-to-mouth basis covering it up with the facade of pragmatism. There was hardly anything weighty or far-seeing in India's performance at the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] meet at Cartagena and one has serious misgivings that after its supine stand in the protracted Dunkel debate that had preceded the setting up of the WTO, the government's stand at the coming G-15 meet would be anything better than pedestrian.

The touch of leadership quality that India had long retained has been totally missing in the present Government's foreign policy approach. We are engaged in only holding operations in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and have avoided any endeavour at providing a vision. It was surprising that throughout all the pronouncements at Cartagena and New York, India did not raise its strong voice denouncing the French nuclear tests. We mumbled out our stand for complete nuclear disarmament, but refrained from taking the lead in denouncing the French nuclear tests in the strongest of terms, exposing the hypocrisy of the big-power nuclear club.

Even in the matter of the fast-deteriorating relationship with Pakistan, we could only score points—only rebutting Islamabad's polemics without providing any viable policy alternative. While we have been proclaiming from the housetops that we would never, never permit the Kashmir issue to be internationalised, we have permitted the U.S. to make considerable inroads into our diplomacy on the issue. There is no other way of explaining away the manner in which we have been permitting the American Ambassador to meddle in Kashmir. The irony of it all is that while we are cent-per cent denunciatory about Pakistan. We are circumspect, frankly beseeching in dealing with the U.S. Administration which is the real force behind Pakistan's military junta. Obviously this creates curious situations, as, for instance, the recent angry outburst of the Union Home Minister against the power that had nurtured the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] (the obvious reference was to the U.S. though it was not mentioned by name) and the very next day there was an official denial about that. This is not the first time that this has happened.

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There was obviously a misreading of the U.S. policy when we got sorely disconcerted over the Hank Brown move in the U.S. Congress. A careful examination of the U.S. policy approach towards Central, West and South Asia would have long ago made it clear to our Government that although the Cold War of officially ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the structures that were built therein have not been dismantled. Rather the present bosses in Washington—the State Department, the Pentagon and the CIA—have been nurturing the design to dominate world politics through the existing structures. Hence NATO has been revamped though the USSR has disappeared. Nuclear disarmament is openly discounted, while the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] is indefinitely extended to ensure the hegemony of the nuclear club. The U.N. is being used more and more blatantly for providing a cover for the U.S. strategic moves whether it is in East Africa or Central America or in the heart of Europe in the former Yugoslavia.

Taking advantage of the economic deprivation of the developing world the IMF-World Bank diktats have been trying to ensure open market economics in the name of globalisation, while the G-7, with the U.S. in the lead, have been raising high protection walls to beat down and ruin the trade of the developing world. Viewed in this context, it is but natural that the U.S. authorities would reinforce their regional strategic base in Pakistan, relying particularly on its military junta. From Central Asia to South Asia, from the banks of the Euphrates and the Tigris, to those of the Indus and the Brahmaputra, the U.S. needs a military depot, and what could be better one than the trusted one in Pakistan? At the height of the Cold War, the U.S. spy planes used air bases in Pakistan which were out of bounds for the Pakistanis (as was the Clark Air Base in the Philippines). And when the Russian troops invaded Afghanistan, Pakistan's standing was enhanced as the supply and training base for the Afghan mujahideen. After the Soviet withdrawal, the U.S. too could not take over Afghanistan because of the tribal resistance. Instead, it backed to the hilt the Pakistan- trained forces under Golboddin Hekmatyar, and then since last year, the aggressive Taleban—all via the ISI and it is the same ISI which today is directing the operations of the secessionists in Kashmir.

For domestic consumption, our government often refers to the depredations of the ISI in different parts of the country, but it tights shy of frankly telling the public that this ISI is a loyal offspring of the Pentagon, using both the arms and the drug channels perfected during the Afghan war. In fact, what the U.S. policy for the region indicates is the continuation of the classic "Great Game". Add to that the U.S. policy in the Gulf region, with its specific target being Iran which is next on Washington's hit-list. For this strategy to materialise, Afghanistan assumes importance. It is therefore not at all surprising that the State Department official, Ms. Robin Raphel, should be landing in Kabul on the way to her seasonal check-up job in Islamabad and New Delhi.

In our official focus on Kashmir, the U.S. role is mysteriously played down. Rather the U.S. Embassy tries to spread the story that Washington has had nothing to do with the ISI. A clear-sighted foreign policy would have boldly unmasked the U.S. policy in the region using the military in Pakistan as it patented instrument. Let it not be forgotten, it is the same military which has always tried to subvert democratic forces in Pakistan. And this is the same force that is providing the arms and training to the militant secessionists in Kashmir.

This perspective is missing in our foreign policy understanding today. Why this blinkered view of the existing realities? It is not difficult to understand the basic weakness in our foreign policy today. For the last four years, the illusion that the present establishment has spread is that now that we have demolished the old barriers and have loyally and unreservedly taken to the Fund-Bank economic strategy, including a come-hither approach to the giant U.S. companies to invest in our country and capture its vast market the U.S. policy-makers would have to choose between India and Pakistan, and since ours is the bigger market and a stable regime, there could be no doubts about Washington tilting to our side. To put it more crudely, since Mr. Narasimha Rao can offer more and better terms than Ms. Benazir Bhutto with her precarious tenure, Washington will favour us in all departments. We even nursed the illusion that we shall have very close Indo-U.S. defence cooperation while Pakistan will have to sweat under the Pressler embargo. The more we gave in on the economic front, even to the point of offering guaranteed returns for the U.S. investments (vice Enron), the more certain our Government became that we would be rewarded in preference to Pakistan.

Against this background, the Hank Brown amendment emerges as a landmark. It promises to help educate our ruling establishment about the imperatives of our foreign policy. Today, in the changed world context, the developing world with all its strength in numbers and resources has to face the economic-cum-political onslaught of the G-7, particularly of the U.S. To pin our faith on them and ignore the need to settle our problems with our neighbours on our own strength and through our wisdom can only lead us to disaster. Despite a thousand rebuffs, India has to be unshakable in its conviction that the democratic forces in Pakistan—

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the common humanity in our sub-continent—has to be recognised as our true allies. We have to settle with them however formidable the challenge may be. There is no short-cut via Washington.

Kashmiris Call Strike Against Proposed Elections

BK0711161095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has given a call for total strike tomorrow to demonstrate the people's rejection of the Indian poll ploy on the occasion of the visit to the valley of the Indian election commissioner.

Meanwhile, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders in their meetings in New Delhi with diplomats, human rights activists, and opposition leaders apprised them of the rejection of the bogus polls by the people of Kashmir. PTV special correspondent Ghulam Nabi Khayal reports from New Delhi:

[Begin recording] Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has come in for sharp criticism from various political parties for his announcing holding of assembly elections in Kashmir during next month. Almost all the political organizations have called Narasimha Rao's decision ridiculous in view of the most unfavorable ground realities prevailing in the valley. According to political observers here in New Delhi, the Indian prime minister has also joined a campaign of disinformation on Kashmir by announcing a so- called package virtually meaning nothing. He has referred to an accord reached between Sheikh Abdullah and Indira Gandhi in 1975, which was aimed at trapping the Sheikh into Indian fold. His son and former state Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah has sent shock waves among the ruling circles here by declaring that whereas 50,000 people have been killed in Kashmir since 1990 and even today 40 to 50 Kashmiris are shot dead each day, holding of free and meaningful elections would be impossible. Dr. Abdullah has also blamed New Delhi for backing out of those promises offered to his father 20 years ago. The observers here are attaching great significance to Dr. Abdullah's stating in a radio interview Sunday [5 November] night that he would advise the working committee of his National Conference Party to boycott the proposed elections. [end recording]

In occupied Kashmir itself, Indian troops used brute force against demonstrators in Srinagar, who were protesting the ruthless repression by troops. The demonstrators who were raising anti-India slogans were lathi [baton]-charged. Mojahedin reacted by attacking military pickets in various localities of Srinagar, killing and injuring a number of troops.

Kashmir Muslim Politician's Brother Said Killed

BK0911064495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0613 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 9 (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen in Srinagar shot dead the brother of a top Muslim politician whose party administers the Pakistan-held zone of divided Kashmir, police said Thursday [9 November].

Indian officials identified the man as Mohammad Sultan Bhatt, brother of Abdul Ghani Bhatt, who heads the Muslim Conference, the ruling party in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

The politician's brother was killed late Wednesday night by several masked gunmen in Sopore, a village in the Indian zone of Kashmir, the police said.

Residents called a general strike in Sopore on Thursday in protest at the assassination, the police said.

Abdul Ghani Bhatt is also a senior leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella of 30 Muslim separatist and political organisations which has its headquarters in Srinagar.

The attack came two weeks after militants fired a rocket into the house of Syed Shah Geelani in an attempt to assassinate the Hurriyat leader in Srinagar, state summer capital of Indian-administered Kashmir.

Geelani survived the massive blast and blamed the attack on Indian intelligence agents, saying New Delhi was out to eliminate politicians opposed to elections in Kashmir.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 when a Muslim separatist drive gained ground in the Himalayan region.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in the frontier state. Islamabad denies the charge but extends diplomatic support to the Muslim separatist drive.

India directly administers the southern two-thirds of Kashmir it holds. The Muslim Conference has formed an elected administration in the northern tip of the divided state that is under Pakistani control.

The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since 1947.

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Election Commission Meets Kashmir Political Leaders

BK0811130195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, says the commission will take into account all factors before taking a decision on conducting elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Srinagar this afternoon, he said the decision will be taken with due and deliberate speed after the three members of the commission return to Delhi.

Mr. T.N. Seshan and the two election commissioners — Mr. M.S. Gill and Mr. Krishnamoorthy — visited the state today to assess the situation for holding assembly elections. Mr. Seshan said the political leaders who met the commission in Srinagar expressed opinions both for and against the holding of elections in the state. Leaders of Congress-I, National Conference, Janata Dal, CPI [Communist Party of India], Panthers Party, and Congress-T [Tiwari faction] met the Election Commission team.

The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, briefed the three members of the commission on the overall situation in the state. He said militancy has been contained to a large extent and people are cooperating with the state administration and security forces in further normalizing the situation.

Kashmir Election Meeting Reportedly Postponed

BK0911091495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The meeting of the Election Commission scheduled for today to discuss the possibility of holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir has been postponed till tomorrow. According to an Election Commission release, the postponement is due to indisposition of the election commissioner, Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy. The meeting will now take place tomorrow at 1500. As reported, the three members of the commission yesterday made an on-the-spot assessment of the ground realities in the state. The chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, stated in Srinagar that the commission will take into account all factors before taking a decision on the issue.

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Janata Dal has announced that it will take part in the elections to the State Assembly. The president of the state unit, Mr. Dhanraj Bargotra, told newsmen in Jammu that the state executive of the party has decided to contest all the seats from the Jammu region and some others from the valley, keeping in view the national interest. He demanded that the center should announce the economic package for the state and also ensure the participation of all parties in the polls.

The former prime minister and the Samajwadi Janata Party president, Mr. Chandrashekhar, talking to newsmen in Patna today said that center should take all parties into confidence before initiating the political process in Jammu and Kashmir.

The National Conference has decided not to participate in the proposed assembly elections next month. The party working committee, which deliberated the issue for two days in Srinagar, passed a unanimous resolution to this effect today. Briefing mediapersons a short while ago, the party president and former chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, said that the National Conference is not against elections but the conditions in several areas of the state, including in Kashmir Valley, are not yet conducive for holding elections in the state.

Editorial Sees Kashmir Elections as 'Imperative'

96ASO006B Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 26 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Kashmir Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is logical for Mr. S.B. Chavan to insist on the need for holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir. From many points of view, it has become imperative to hold elections there. According to Mr. Chavan, the home ministry has already passed on its report to the election commission calling the situation in the state stable enough to hold the elections. Now it is up to the election commission to make the decision. This clears the way to elections because only this week the commission had asked the home ministry to review the situation and report its findings. According to the Chief Election Commissioner Mr. T.N. Seshan, the election commission itself will visit Jammu and Kashmir and will make the decision about the dates after assessing the situation. This is because the president's rule in the state was extended for six months in July. Therefore the elections have to be completed by the end of December. It is worth considering that the last extension required a special constitutional finding after the president's rule had completed five years. This was done because Mr. Seshan had visited the state in the month of May and had not found the situation stable enough to hold the elections. There is some difference in the situation today. The rage of the terrorists is less. The public is aware of their misdeeds and their genuinness. During the summer this year there was some improvement in the tourist trade. Scared by this tourism, the terrorists undertook the deplorable act of hostage taking. Many terrorists have also surrendered. There is some political activity and people are not avoiding public meetings.

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They are willing to take the risk of speaking up against the terrorists. Inviting unofficial public figures to speak in the meetings of the development boards should be considered a good step (On the way to normalcy). The real fact is, the picture of the state will change very much by having an elected government. The example of Punjab is in front of us. Elected government will be able to push developmental projects faster and will be able to resist terrorism better. Presently the terrorists are facing the central government through president's rule. This increases the importance of the separatist elements. An elected government in the state will challenge the terrorist movement from a position of strength. The biggest worry is that Pakistan will try its best not to let this happen. News about the terrorists being trained accross the border and increasing concentration of the Pakistani forces near the border are reaching here regularly, this has to be faced. Whenever there will be elections to be held in Kashmir, this danger will always be there. Their efforts at raising the Kashmir issue in the international forums will be hampered very much as soon as an elected government takes over in Kashmir. Their vail of misinformation against India will be torn. Another aspect of the election in Kashmir will be that it will affect the politics of Pakistan very much. The Benezir (Bhutto) government will be in danger. Her anti India stand and Kashmir have been the main planks of her power. Their bad results will be apparent to her now.

Many events have occured giving shape to the possibilities of elections in the past few months. Terrorists warning about disturbing the Amarnath Yatra (Hindu Spiritual Pilgrimmage) did not have any effect. Thousands of people from all over the country went to Amarnath and their safety was assured. Only a few weeks back, the Leh district local board elections in Ladakh passed quietly. The terrorist threat in Jammu has been limited to very few districts only. The Congress (I) began the political dialogue by calling a public meeting, not too long ago in the valley, some ten thousand people attended the meeting. The news about the differences between the extremists identified with Hisbullah and Jamiat-e-Islam can be considered as the beginning (Of the end). Surely the National Conference, apart from other national parties, will not make the same mistake that the Akalis made in Punjab where they did not participate in the elections. They did not take the risk of opposing the terrorists which has politically hurt them very much. That was the reason the voter participation was only 15 percent. After only a few months in the municipal elections the voter participation went to 65 percent and in the panchayat elections the participation went to 85 percent which proved the democratic processes worked against the terrorist threats. With participation of many national parties, there is a good chance of greater participation by voters in kashmir. Forming of support groups for the election propaganda has been possible only because of the campaign against the terrorists by the security forces. This campaign needs some dynamism, so that the grip of terrorism can be broken and the elections can pass without any problem.

Article Says Congress (T) 'Rising' in Bihar

96AS0004B Varanasi AJ in Hindi 21 Sep 95 p 6

[Article by Ashok Mishra: "The Rising Spirits of the Tiwari Congress"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Soon after Sonia Gandhi expressed her displeasure with Mr. Rao during her visit to Amethi, the zeal shown by Congress (T) workers and leaders during the Patna meeting has caused unrest in the Rao camp. Although Rao government leaders are trying to downplay the success of Patna meeting, however, they are unable to hide their campaign to remove Sarfraz Ahmed, state Congress head of their own camp.

Congress President P.V. Narasimha Rao formed a new working committee of the Bihar Congress party in order to stop the movement of as many workers and leaders as possible to the Tiwari group. Mr. Rao appointed Sarfraz Ahmed as state party president to lure minority members and voters. However, as soon as the new working committee was announced, all veteran Bihar leaders opposed it. Furkan Ansari, the party whip in the Vidhan Sabha [State Assembly], and Roshan Lal Bhatia, secretary general of the party, demanded the dismissal of both state and regional party committees. Tarik Anwar, president of the minority cell of the Congress (I), also wrote a letter to the central administration of the party warning them that this is the last chance and if proper steps are not taken now, there will be no one in Bihar who would even remember the name of Congress Party.

About 50 leaders under the leadership of Prem Chand Mishra, president of Bihar's NSUI [expansion unknown] for the last eight years, met with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and demanded ouster of the present state party president. These young leaders expressed anger at Dr. Jagan Nath Mishra, Bihar's strongest Congress leader. They appealed to the prime minister to take necessary stops. Chandan Bagchi, the former state party president, went as far as to say that the irresponsible actions of Dr. Jagan Nath Mishra have made the Bihar Congress party the "B team" of [Janata Dal's] Lalu Yadav. The unfortunate result of this has been defeat in the Vidhan Sabha election.

Meanwhile the activities of Congress (T) leaders are increasing daily. The Congress (T) party appointed Jhumar Lal Baitha, former Bihar Congress president

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and veteran leader, president of the party and got the support of all the members and leaders who felt they were neglected in the Rao camp. The arrival of Mr. Baitha in the newly organized committee of the Congress (T) has increased the possibilities of the support of backward and minority voters for this group. Mr. Baitha has been a cabinet member both in the central and state governments. Dr. Shambhu Sharan Thakur, former spokesman for the Congress party, has been appointed as the organizer. Mr. Thakur is one of the most enthusiastic Congress party leaders in Bihar. He is popular in all groups because of his clean image. The membership of such leaders as Bhagwat Jha Azad, former chief minister; Laliteshwar Prasad Shahi, former central minister; Pandit Shayama Nand Mishra; and Tarkeshwari Sinha in the Congress (T) is very important for this group.

Political analysts believe that the Congress (T) is emerging as the third power in Bihar after the Janata Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party. The issues that the Congress (T) has raised for its political action have increased its popularity in Bihar. The strong announcement made against the caste system and factionalism in the Patna conference has attracted the members and leaders.

Analysts say that if both Congress factions remain in this situation, the practice of movement between Rao and Tiwari factions will continue until after the Lok Sabha election. The course of movement of new members and leaders from other parties has already begun. Recently, a large group of Congress members has joined Congress (T) under the leadership of Satish Kumar, a legislator with a lot of influence among backward castes in Bihar. The political corridors are humming with the news about the possibility of merging Mulayam Singh Yadav's Samajwadi party's Taslimuddin group with this party. The merger of Taslimuddin group will depend whether the another strong group of the Samata party, Muslim-Thakur group, merges with Congress (T) or not. The Taslimuddin group of the Samajwadi party does not like Abdul Ghafur, Yunus Salim Shahabuddin, and Harikishore Singh of the Samta party. If the Taslimuddin group cannot join the Congress (T), it can join the Janata Dal. Several groups involved in the Jharkhand campaign can try to join the Congress (T).

Political analysts believe that only Dr. Jagan Nath Mishra is capable of stop the increasing popularity of the Congress (T). He is equally popular among all the caste groups, classes, and factions. Not only this, Dr. Jagan Nath Mishra can also achieve the task of attracting the groups that demand "remove Sarfraz" and the minority groups to the Congress (I). However, the members and leaders who are demanding ouster of Sarfraz are also opposing Dr. Mishra, Sita Ram Kesari, Ramlakhan Singh Yadav, and Rajesh Pilot. The reason for their opposition to Dr. Mishra is said to be the belief that Dr. Mishra does not want to oust Sarfraz Ahmed.

Iran

Velayati on Israel, 'Terrorism,' U.S. 'Hegemonism'

LD0411145495 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said on Saturday the Zionist regime's acknowledgement to its indirect involvement in the assassination attempt on the life of an Iranian diplomat in Argentina and the assassination of Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi has aroused world public opinion against Tel Aviv.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the fourth book fair at the ministry of foreign affairs, Velayati said the terrorist actions has stirred up the world public opinion against Israel and the Zionist regime is now making efforts to distance itself from those crimes.

Following the disgust expressed by the world public opinion against aboritve assassination of the Iranian charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires, the Zionist regime has embarked on a massive propaganda campaign to portray the assassination attempt as a simple robbery.

Velayati said that after the two assassinations, the world public opinion has turned against Israel.

The Iranian foreign minister said Israel constantly pursues its policy of promoting terrorism for its political goals.

He said the foundation of the Zionist regime has been laid upon terrorism, former prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, former minister of defence, Ariel Sharon, and former prime minister, Menahin Begin were the architects of state terrorism.

Asked by IRNA correspondent about the reason behind the hostile policy of the U.S. against Iran, Velayati said the Americans have a covetous eye on the Persian Gulf and the newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union in order to promote their hegemonism in the region where the main part of the world's energy reserves is located.

They spare no efforts to conspire against the Islamic Republic of Iran to undermine the Islamic revolution, Velayati said, adding that, "we are used to such conspiracies hatched by the U.S. and are ready to defend our interests."

On his forthcoming visit to Baghdad, he said the date of his visit has yet to be fixed.

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Velayati Interviewed on Bosnia, Iraq, Other Issues

LD0611160995 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Nov. 6, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said if the United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) withdraw from Bosnia they should be replaced with a new force consisting of European and Islamic states operating under the U.N. supervision. Speaking in an interview with Lyon-based television network, EURONEWS, broadcast on Saturday night, Velayati said Iran as a member state of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will continue its efforts to end the Bosnian crisis and establish peace in the Balkans. The western contact group should also go ahead with its peace efforts, he added.

On the current ceasefire in Bosnia, he said what is important is the preservation of the ceasefire and establishment of a lasting peace along with tranquility for Bosnia and for the entirety of the Balkans. He said if all of the countries involved in the crisis did not want a permanent peace, the threat of a new fighting in the region would remain in force. Velayati rejected the question that the crisis in the Balkans has been a religious conflict and said, "We try to avoid such interpretation, because Muslims and Christians are living in peace throughout the world and Bosnia cannot be an exception.

On the question as to why the west does not understand some aspects of the Islamic revolution, Velayati said, basically, the European countries are secular states whereas Muslim states have Islamic governments.

"Why we are pursuing a policy different from that of the west is another matter that we can discuss if you desire so. This is what we are doing with Germany and scholars from the two countries have started debates on various issues." Velayati said, "when we coexist with each other, we should tolerate one another. You have your own way of life and we have our own. We do not want to dictate our ideas to you and you could not force us to follow your way of thinking either."

Answering a question posed by EURONEWS reporter on a ban announced in Iran on satellite TV programs, he said, "If you want your tv programs broadcast in Iran, you should accept the same condition and let Iranian tv and radio programs be broadcast in your country." He said, "I think some European states will not accept such a condition. If we want to live in coexistence, we should reach mutual agreements and that unilateral agreement is meaningless. The agreements should be based on mutual understanding."

Referring to the allegations leveled by the west especially the U.S. against Iran about its access to nuclear bomb and, he said the sole authorized international organizations are entitled to judge about the issue. One of these organizations is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and we can ask the world body to inspect the nuclear installations in Iran to confirm that Iran intends to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

He said, "we invited the secretary-general of IAEA to visit Iran, and he did so and ordered setting up of several committees to survey Iranian nuclear installations. All of the committees announced that Iran complied with international regulations. I think this is enough for the international community."

Asked about whether or not Iran will return Iraqi planes landed for safety in Iran in the course of the Persian Gulf war in 1990, Velayati said this is contrary to the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for economic sanctions on Iraq and if the Security Council lift the embargo and ask Iran to return Iraqi planes, Iran will hand over 22 Iraqi planes to Iraq.

On the territorial integrity of Iraq, he said Iran opposes disintegration of Iraq and regards it as not being in the interest of either Iraq or Iran.

On Iraq-Iran war, he said the war was a great mistake. The bloody war was imposed by Iraq and the then secretary-general of the United Nations, Javier Peres de Cuellar officially informed the Security Council that Iraq was the aggressor and initiator of the eight year war.

Velayati denied Iran's involvement in terrorist acts being committed in the world against the U.S., Israel and France and said many countries will eventually come to the conclusion that not only Iran did not support terrorism, but is also against any form of terrorism. Iran has been a victim of terrorism and has so far lost many of its personalities to terrorist acts, Velayati said.

He said at present few countries such as the U.S. and Israel are trying to tarnish the image of Iran before the international community for their own political ends.

Velayati Meets Turkmen Foreign Minister in Mashhad

LD0811223295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met the Turkmen Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov on Wednesday afternoon, near the pure shrine of Imam Reza [in Mashhad, Khorasan Province].

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At the meeting Velayati, expressing his satisfaction over the trend of cooperation between the two countries, said: Khorasan Province, with its expanse, can be a link between Central Asia and Middle Asia [as heard] and the Persian Gulf regional states and Europe.

Shikhmuradov repeated the Turkmen president's remarks concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran's historical and strategic importance for the Central Asian states — in particular Turkmenistan — and stressed the need to strengthen the two countries' fraternal relations in all fields. Shikhmuradov, who is heading a high-ranking delegation travelled to Iran by land. He stressed: The roads for cooperation in various political, economic, and cultural fields are smooth and the two countries have no particular problem in expanding their cooperation.

Deputy Minister Va'ezi Meets Turkmen President

LD0811184395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting today with Turkmen President Saparmyrat Niyazov, Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran favors strengthening the independence of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr. Va'ezi also expressed Iran's willingness to hold the fifth round of Tajik peace talks.

A Central News Unit correspondent reports that Saparmyrat Niyazov expressed satisfaction with regard to the two countries' ties, which are expanding on a daily basis, and the participation of Iran in development projects in Turkmenistan. Niyazov described the role played by Iran in solving regional crises, such as those in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, as very significant and constructive. He also expressed satisfaction at the trilateral session of the deputy foreign ministers of Iran, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan, and described it as successful.

Rowhani: U.S. Double Standards Support for Criminals

LD0611095495 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA — Majles Vice-Speaker Hasan Rowhani said here Sunday that Americans by adopting a double standard towards martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi on the one hand and killing of Yitzhaq Rabin on the other hand, proved that they support criminals.

Addressing a group of university students in Tehran, Rowhani said the U.S. had shown it was only thinking of its own interests, therefore, he added, such a country could not claim leadership of the world.

He said although it was too early to talk about the future big powers of the world, however, it was obvious that the era of a single superpower would soon come to an end.

Rowhani who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), further added that religion was the only factor which could unite people around one single axis.

He said people should support the clerics and the leadership in order to preserve their own dignity and national interests.

Rowhani stressed that people would not be able to confront the U.S. and the world arrogance in the absence of support for the clerics.

Commentary Views U.S.-Japan Ties

LD0811224595 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1924 GMT 8 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the renewal and strengthening of the Washington and Tokyo security accord is to be discussed during the U.S. President's visit to Japan next month, the wave of opposition to the renewal of that agreement has redoubled. The Japanese people have continued to emphatically call for the cancellation of the U.S.-Japan security agreement through staging marches and rallies, particularly during the past month. They believe the existence of the agreement — which has resulted in the presence of more than 45,000 American soldiers in Japan — to be contrary to the sovereignty and national interests of Japan and moreover believe that the presence of U.S. forces in Japan has created much disharmony.

Side by side with the wave of Japanese popular opposition, some regional states have also officially declared their concern over the renewal of the U.S.-Japan security agreement as well as the presence of U.S. forces in the region, which number over 100,000. The latest action in this regard is the concern expressed by the Chinese Foreign Ministry over the likelihood of the renewal of the U.S.- Japan security agreement. The Chinese Foreign Ministry believes the American presence in the region creates instability in Eastern Asia. From Beijing's point of view the end of the Cold War, the ending of regional crises in Eastern Asia, and rivalry being replaced by cooperation in relations among the regional states render the U.S. military presence unjustifiable.

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Nevertheless, America is still pursuing Cold War era policies in Eastern Asia and by concluding bilateral agreements with certain regional states — such as Japan and South Korea — seeks to strengthen its presence in the region. What has caused America to pursue such a policy in Eastern Asia is the political, economic, and strategic importance of the Asia-Pacific region. To achieve that objective, Washington tries — through making a propaganda fuss over North Korea and China — to justify the need for its military presence in the region by portraying those two countries as threats. But that is contrary to official policies of Beijing and Pyongyang. Those two states have time and again talked of peaceful relations among the region's states and stressed the need for a common security structure away from the presence of foreigners. From the point of view of China and North Korea, Washington, by raising the theory of the Beijing and Pyongyang threat, is trying to impose its leadership on Eastern Asia, on the one hand, and, on the other, turn the region into its largest market for its arms — and that contradicts the overall national and security interests of all the countries of the region.

In any case, most political and military experts believe that although in the past Eastern Asian security has been a function of the pressures and tensions of the Cold War era and the regional players' role took on a meaning only within the frameworks created by the big powers, today the Eastern Asian region has undergone geopolitical change. Certainly for countries such as China — which is determined to play an important role in the international arena — the U.S. military presence next to its borders will not be tolerable. Moreover the Eastern Asian states, which have all put economic growth and development at the top of their agenda, have come to the conclusion that long-term welfare in Eastern Asia requires stability, and the regional states possess the required diplomatic skills and structural resources to create a security system in Eastern Asia. That is why the continuation of the U.S. presence in the region seems irrelevant.

Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto Concludes Visit

Accords Signed

BK0811132795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Iran have signed three agreements and two memorandums of understanding [MOU's] in Tehran this morning to mark the successful conclusion of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's three-day official visit to Tehran. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto were present on the occasion. The three agreements are for bilateral cooperation in the field of maritime commercial navigation, reciprocal promotion and protection of investment, and the establishment of a joint business council. The two MOU's related to making Joint Economic Commission more effective and bilateral cooperation in the field of female sports activities.

Those who signed the agreements and MOU's on Pakistan's side were the federal minister for water and power, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar; the minister of state for economic affairs, Makhdum Shahabuddin; the foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh; and the Pakistan ambassador in Tehran, Mr. Khalid Mahmud. For Iran, these were signed by Engineer 'Ali Akbar Torkan, minister for roads and transportation; Mr. (Qayam Khani), vice minister for roads and transportation; and (Khanam Faiza Hashemi), vice president of Iranian Olympic Committee for Women Sports.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto held final round of talks with President Rafsanjani in Tehran today. They exchanged views on bilateral, regional, and international issues of interest to their two countries. The prime minister later left Tehran for Islamabad. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani bade her farewell at the airport. She was presented a guard of honor.

Officials Discuss Trade Exchanges

LD0811112695 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA — The expansion of Iran-Pakistan economic ties as well as the role of both countries' private sectors in promoting relations were reviewed in a meeting held Tuesday [7 November] by the economic advisor to the Pakistani premier, Shahid Hassankhan [name as received], and members of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines.

The secretary-general of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, 'Ali Shams-Ardakani, noted during the meeting the existing potentials for further expansion of bilateral trade exchanges.

He said that unfortunately, the existing facilities have not yet been utilized sufficiently and bilateral ties are not at the desired level, adding that this is while the expansion of bilateral relations is to the interest of both countries.

Efforts should be exerted more than before for promoting Iran-Pakistan economic ties, he emphasized, as he believed that development of this area would lead to a consolidation of other existing linkages between the two countries.

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Expounding on the economic policies of Islamabad and bilateral economic and commercial relations, Hassankhan stated that the two countries should exert their utmost to collaborate in all areas and the private sectors of the two countries can play an important role in this field.

Referring to the Irano-Pakistan export and import structure, he noted that primary Pakistani exports included cotton, rice, textiles, carpet and leather, while Iran is a major oil exporting country in the world.

Hassankhan said that Tehran and Islamabad, on the basis of joint industrial agreements, can export their industrial goods to other countries and enjoy the interests and benefits jointly, adding that to achieve this goal, joint investments are deemed necessary.

Joint Statement Issued

BK0811145495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has categorically supported Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir, underlining the importance of finding a solution to the dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. The Iranian support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue has been expressed in a joint statement issued simultaneously in Tehran and Islamabad today at the end of the official visit to Iran by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The prime minister exchanged views with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on a wide spectrum of bilateral matters and regional and international issues. They reviewed latest developments in occupied Kashmir, with special reference to the ongoing movement of the Kashmiri people for their right of self- determination. They expressed their concern over the oppression continuing in the held Kashmir. They observed that the dispute remained a source of tension in the region. Ms. Benazir Bhutto appreciated efforts by President Rafsanjani to mediate in resolving the Kashmir dispute. They stressed the importance of preservation of peace and tranquillity in the Indian Ocean as well as the Gulf region. They observed that all major problems and differences in the region must be peacefully settled by the regional states.

During talks held between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Rafsanjani, both sides expressed their concern over the continuation of internal conflict in Afghanistan. They urged the need for a just and equitable political settlement in Afghanistan in accordance with the aspirations of the Afghan people. They agreed to persuade the warring factions in Afghanistan to avoid further bloodshed so that the people of Afghanistan could devote themselves to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their war- ravaged country.

The two countries stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation in bolstering trade and economic links with Central Asian states. The two sides noted with satisfaction the increase in bilateral trade volume during 1994-95 and stressed the need to further consolidate this positive trend. They expressed their appreciation for the speed with which the major bilateral economic projects, such as the oil refinery and gas pipeline, were moving forward. They noted the progress made on the deal on export of Iranian bulldozers to Pakistan and import of Pakistani cement and sugar plants by Iran.

Pakistan and Iran have also agreed to continue their determined efforts for eliminating trafficking and smuggling of narcotics.

The two sides also urged [as heard] the need to establish nuclear-free zones in South Asia and the Middle East. They reaffirmed their commitment to working for total elimination of nuclear arsenals and other weapons of mass destruction.

The two sides also underlined the need to strengthen the roles of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] and OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] in furthering cooperation among the Muslim countries.

Pakistan and Iran, while supporting the calls for reforms of the UN Security Council, emphasized that any expansion of the body must be based on the principles of sovereign equality of states and equitable geographical distribution.

Pakistan and Iran also discussed problems concerning Azerbaijan, Bosnia, and Middle East. They deplored Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and emphasized that the aggression must end. They demanded lifting of illegal arms embargo against Bosnia to enable the Bosnians to defend their country. They stressed that any settlement in Bosnia must guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country.

Outcome of Visit Discussed

NC0911095795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The three-day visit to our country by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her delegation ended yesterday. The two countries signed

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several economic, political, cultural, and sports agreements and called for expanding bilateral cooperation in the region and bilateral political, trade, and cultural ties.

Expanding these relations, in view of the geographic and political situations of the two countries, and especially Iran's political and geopolitical position in the region, is very significant. Political observers believe the longstanding cultural links between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Pakistan constitute the most important element consolidating bilateral relations. In addition to cultural and economic potential, grounds for political cooperation aimed at establishing and consolidating stability in the region can deepen Tehran-Islamabad relations.

The Islamic Republic's efforts to end regional crises, such as Kashmir and Afghanistan, show the extent of Iran's interest in working toward regional accord. Repeated statements by high-ranking Iranian officials on the need to protract joint regional cooperation and commercial relations show, more than anything else, that these two big Islamic countries can adopt coordinated policies in the region to overcome the will of world hegemony and, despite various obstacles set up by foreigners, consolidate their relations such that each can be a shoulder to lean on in solving problems.

Economic and commercial ties and ways to expand them constituted another topic in the talks between the Pakistani prime minister and our high-ranking officials. While following up on former agreements and progress, officials discussed the construction of the Iranian gas pipeline to Pakistan and called for the necessary facilities to implement this project as soon as possible.

Undoubtedly, the implementation of these agreements can help to enhance cooperation on a larger scale.

Division Among Israelis Seen Slowing Peace Process

NC0911075595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 9 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination by an extremist Jew—the first such incident since the formation of the Zionist regime—took the Tel Aviv regime by surprise. Now, five days after the assassination and the initial shock, they are trying to set up a framework that will prevent similar incidents.

The Zionist regime's efforts show its fear that similar assassinations may take place and indicate its loss of trust in the Israeli intelligence and security organizations. The day after Rabin's assassination, HA'ARETZ, which is published in occupied Palestine, wrote that this assassination is not the last and that Rabin will not be the only prime minister to be killed. Referring to differences among the Zionists, the newspaper wrote that under such conditions, assassinations among the Zionists will continue.

After Rabin's assassination, Middle East experts analyzed the situation and stated that this incident manifests the overt emergence of differences among the Zionists and is the starting point of a process that will result in more assassinations. These analyses, which are actually a warning to Tel Aviv officials, forced them to take preventive measures.

Zionist security officials are now trying to find out whether Yig'al 'Amir carried out the assassination alone or helped by others. Thus some of his friends and relatives have been arrested. Initial efforts have shown that he is a member of a terrorist group known as the Kahana [Hay].

Although Yig'al 'Amir has said he did not receive orders from any group, the revelation of his links with an extremist Jewish group shows that Rabin's assassination was the outcome of an organized effort that will not stop with the arrest of the assassin. The organized effort by Jewish terrorist groups—assassinating the Zionist regime's prime minister—proves the weakness of Israeli intelligence and security organizations, which have had great lipservice paid to their power and might for years.

This is why Tel Aviv officials are running about in search of measures to reorganize their security organizations and overcome their weaknesses. This effort by Zionist officials results in intensifying security and repressive measures. Since there are Zionist terrorist groups with extremist outlooks, and the Zionist regime—the leaders of which were themselves the founders of terrorist attempts in the region—are trying to neutralize terrorist activity, political experts foresee a growing rift among the Zionists.

Intensifying repressive measures, as well as intensifying activities by Zionist intelligence organizations in confronting the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in the self-rule areas, can lead to protests by Palestinian groups, which will do nothing except slow the peace process, which has already received a deadly blow with Rabin's assassination.

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Mohtashami: Muslims Regret Rabin Buried in Jerusalem

LD0711134295 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA — The world of Islam regrets that former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was buried at Bayt al-Muqaddas [Jerusalem], Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, a member of the Assembly of Combatant Clerics (Majma' Rowhaniyun Mobarez), said on Monday.

Speaking in a ceremony at Tehran University marking the martyrdom of the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad movement, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, Mohtashami termed the assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin as divine retribution.

He pointed out that the Palestine territory is the place for prophets and is, therefore, sacred, adding that the burial of "this origin of corruption" in this place is a big insult to Islamic sanctities (holy beings) and is considered as blasphemy.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami added that al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom, conducted under Rabin's instruction, not only did not disturb Muslims' anti-Zionist activities in the occupied lands but even accelerated the struggle.

Martyr al-Shaqaqi was a manifestation of humanity, honor and human values and his assassination by the enemy was in fact an attack at Islamic values, he further added.

During the ceremony, several representatives from Lebanon and Palestinian Islamic movements expounded on the procedures of the Islamic resistance done by the Lebanese Hizballah and intifada, and described the martyrdom of combatants such as Fathi al-Shaqaqi as "effective" in deepening such movements.

Students Condemn Arab Leaders Attending Rabin's Burial

LD0711153595 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA — A large number of Tehran University students held a rally in the univeristy compound to protest the presence of the leaders some Islamic states in the burial the Zionist regime's prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin.

The rally staged by over 500 female and male students was called for by the Islamic Association of Tehran University Students.

The students shouted death to U.S., death to Israel, death to the compromisers. Shaqaqi, your path will continue was another slogan chanted by the students.

Issuing a resolution at the end of the rally, the students condemned the leaders of some Arab countries who attended the burial service and voiced their support for the Palestinian uprising, intifada.

Kashani Delivers Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0311132895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0800 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, member of the Council of Guardians, in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi was martyred but the Intifada gained momentum. That is undoubtedly so. It means that by attempting to defeat an Islamic force, thinking that it could achieve its goals and wishes, the enemy signed its own death warrant. Israel is digging its own grave by such actions. Because the Islamic societies are beginning to wake up the world's nations are becoming alert.

There are two kinds of movements, two kinds of revolutions in the world. Sometimes a revolution starts in order to win daily bread, for financial reasons. Then, if someone comes along and kills its leaders it dies down, weakens, or loses momentum. But if a revolution is based on spirituality, on religion, the enemy cannot destroy it or weaken its essence. [passage omitted]

Today when human societies, particularly Islamic peoples, see such crimes, see what Israel and the United States are doing, see how the CIA and Mossad, hand-in-hand, are bent on plundering the globe, mowing down such people, silencing any justice-seeking voice, be it in Bosnia, in Palestine, or elsewhere the world realizes that those forces are prepared to destroy Islam and justice. But they have not the slightest effect. Not only did the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi not benefit Israel or the United States, it intensified the Intifadah against Zionism. [congregation chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

Israel, Zionism, and the leaders of the White House will fail to achieve anything. It will be just like their failure during the Iranian Islamic revolution. Despite all their crimes, the more they supported the shah, the more bloody the revolution became. The more martyrs we gave, the faster the pace of the revolution. This is the inevitable outcome of the war of justice against injustice. This is the inevitable course of all movements which are based on justice. But any movement which is founded on worldly matters is doomed. Such foundations are weak and flimsy like a spider's web. How can

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they destroy a movement which is based on faith, God, and reliance on justice?

You saw how many people attended the [Fathi al-Shaqaqi] funeral ceremony. They were crying and sobbing from the bottom of their hearts. They were shedding tears of sorrow. The world of Islam was engulfed in mourning. Such occasions awaken the entire nation of Islam. The day of the funeral was the day of reawakening. Such occasions will switch on new lights in the nightly prayer halls of the Islamic ummah. These new lights will enable the Islamic ummah to see the dark corners of the enemy's mind, his evil intentions, and his sinister objectives. The enemy's crimes, committed in darkness, are exposed. That is why we offer both condolences and congratulations on such occasions.

Thanks to these occasions [funeral ceremonies for martyrs], the Islamic ummah finds its true identity. Such occasions should particularly awaken two groups in Islamic societies, that is, the clergy and the university academics. Our great imam [Khomeyni] was deeply interested in these two pillars of society. He placed much stress on these two groups — the clergy, the seminary teachers and students, and the religious scholars on one hand; and university lecturers, writers, and students on the other hand. They must all wake up and see what is happening in the world. They must transform the Islamic world.

Today, the clergy and seminarians, and the university academics in universities are the two groups which can transform our society. Our great imam used to repeat this important obligation very often. He relied on universities and seminaries.

We see that [Khamene'i] the eminent leader of the revolution, in his remarks this week, emphasized this point. And he was absolutely right about what he said regarding reliance on the clergy and on universities, both of which form the key basis for the Islamic movement and revolution.

Now to the issue of the clergy, as a group in Islamic society which has studied Islam, and as the eminent leader has said, it and no other group has grasped the methods and procedures of jurisprudence and Islamic science. Islam minus the clergy means an Islam without islamologists and an Islam divorced from its own inner truth. By clergy, I do not mean anyone who merely wears clerical headgear. Instead, I mean those who have studied, are knowledgeable in Islamic sciences, and who enjoy Islamic piety. This is something that the eminent imam [Khomeyni] greatly emphasized. [passage omitted]

If Islam loses its specialists, its experts, and its interpreters then certain issues will come to the surface and heresy and distortions will begin to appear, and like now, you will start to hear things from here and there. [sentence as heard] This is because the specialist is not alongside Islam.

The Lord of the Faithful [first Shiite Imam 'Ali] had a succinct saying which, although in essence it referred to his own time it is also relevant to the past, the present, the future, and in fact all historical eras: [passage omitted] Sedition [Fetneh] begins when heresy [Bed'at] appears — this means that personal desires come forward, and many people begin to follow them — [passage omitted] If what is wrong [Batel] comes forward on its own without being fused with elements of what is right [Haqq], then the wrong is not invisible to those bestowed with wisdom, just as in the same way there in no question about what is right.

The point is that people will be led astray when a proportion of what is wrong is put alongside a proportion of what is right. That is to say that when one theme is borrowed from one place and another from a different source, when one context is taken from religion and another from secularism, while at the same time elements of personal desires also become involved, then the whole sum-total can induce people to follow such a hybrid school of thought. But if what is wrong reveals itself without pretending to embrace any element of what is right, and without containing verses from the Koran, the Tradition, and the sayings of the Islamic thinkers... [pauses] It is a fact that so much emphasis has been placed on the clergy, and the eminent leader of the revolution also stated that Islamic sciences have their own peculiar methodology. [passage omitted]

I now want to offer some admonitions, since this is the Friday prayers and it is my duty to offer advice, as the great imams and the holy Prophet used to. [congregation chants salutations to Muhammad]. I put this admonition in the framework of a number of quotations from our dear [Shiite] imams. I say this to all university academics and to those who say they understand Islam and who actually set out to write and speak about the subject — whether clerics or laymen, whether in universities, in seminaries, or ministries. I want to quote this sentence from Imam Sadiq: [passage omitted] The science of religion is locked up and restricted, and the key to this lock is the questions that one puts to the experts.

This means that we should not confine our talking and listening to a limited space surrounded by four walls. Speak and listen, but also ask questions and do some research.

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One feels sad that a young man with all that faith and enthusiasm, who could be a very effective person within an Islamic society, should carry such corrupt, superstitious [khorafi], and heretical ideas. You should ask questions and do some research. Why should you not indulge in debates? You should refer to our many experts — we have many of them, in Tehran or in Qom. Question and answer sessions must be held in classes, in ministries, and even in the market place. This is what should be done, instead of indulging in self-destruction, the weakening of our faith, and nurturing wrong ideas under the banner of Islam. [passage omitted]

I would also like to say a few words about 13 Aban [corresponding to 4 November 1979], the anniversary of the occupation of the former U.S. embassy in Tehran]. Today is the eve of the day on which our students created that extraordinary and great event which was subsequently called the second revolution by our late imam [Khomeyni]. [passage omitted]

The Islamic revolution smashed that power. Our honorable imam and the great Iranian nation who followed him took part in that movement. See how humiliated and belittled the White House has become — the White House that assumed so much power? [congregation chants: "God is the greatest," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

The great Iranian nation will not forget the events of that day and will respect what happened and which led to humiliation and defeat for the United States. The Iranian nation should respect the day by telling the United States that the power which was its source of pride has now been smashed. That is the objective behind the events of that day which should be respected. The events of that day influenced the whole world and they influenced all Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Indian Helicopter Said Downed Over Siachen Glacier

BK0911102695 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 9 Nov 95 pp 1, 5

[Report by special correspondent C.R. Shamsi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — Brave Pakistani troops have shot down an Indian military helicopter over Siachen Glacier. According to responsible military sources, when Indian troops violated the Line of Control and opened fire on the civilian population in the Keran sector in Azad Kashmir a few days ago, an Indian military helicopter violated our airspace by flying over Pakistani military posts on Siachen. Pakistani troops opened fire on the helicopter and it caught fire in the air. The helicopter then crashed in the snow-clad mountains. The reliable military sources confirm that the helicopter was smashed.

U.S. Official Said 'Flouting' Diplomatic Norms

BK0511123695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "This audacity is not acceptable"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Flouting all diplomatic norms, exhibiting total insensitivity to the emotions of her host, and behaving like a representative of John Bull, Ms Robin Raphel, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, revealed the contours of American agenda not only for Pakistan but also for the whole region including Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iran, Karachi and Pakistan's economy and politics. Instead of putting her agenda in the framework of an official of the State Department, she had the audacity to say that "we like to keep in touch to know what is happening here in politics, economics, etc. I routinely do that!"

Such unprecedented remarks about our internal affairs and our relationship with our neighbours reveal a much deeper involvement in Pakistan's affairs than the US-Pakistan relations demand. Is this the price for Brown Amendment that we are being asked to pay or is this the new pattern with which the Americans are going to shape the events in this region? No Pakistani would accept this attitude as it strikes at the heart of our independent and sovereign entity. But what grieves us is the capacity of our leaders to swallow such bitter pills in silence. No self-respecting nation can accept such "routines" from anybody.

The Americans have been burdened with the assignment of "world peacekeepers" by sheer accidents of history. Their history reveals that they have never been able to see anything beyond their shadows. A nation that has been grappling constantly with the idea of a moving frontier cannot go beyond its starting point. The other side of the frontier has always played a negative and threatening role for Washington and that is how the Americans have been behaving in world politics. This privileged position has given them only arrogance and self-righteousness. They cannot see anything worth consideration on the other side. Their role during the Cold War was not that of accommodating the ground realities of their rivals but a constant fear of the dissolution of their imagined frontiers in the global affairs. The post Cold War era has not removed those fears; it has simply put new players in their confrontational posture. Before someone challenge them in their monopoly of supervising the internal and external affairs of other countries, they want to leave

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a legacy of their intervention in almost every minor and major field.

The fact that Ms Raphel used the soil of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with full knowledge of how we feel about Kashmir, Afghanistan and Iran should not be taken as a routine matter of exchanging ideals with the journalists. If an Assistant Secretary of State could be so impolite, so indifferent and so hostile to our national interests, it is not difficult to imagine how her boss would behave.

Whenever an American official visits Pakistan, we open our doors, we push aside all requirements of protocol, and eagerly wait for a knock on our conscience. The knock comes with a bang, talks assume the shape of dictation and we are left with the after effects of these brief but disparaging sojourns. This is not how nations behave. This is not what the millions of our people expect from our leaders who leave no opportunity in telling us that we belong to a proud legacy and that we are honourable and sovereign people.

Unfortunately there are no saints in this shameful drama: both the government and opposition compete in appeasing the representatives of the State Department and what should be considered a matter of humiliation and bartering away of national honour, is acceptable as a source of pride. The Prime Minister is going to visit Iran soon and what Ms Raphel said about isolating Iran and its alleged involvement in terrorism, should have been appropriately condemned by the Foreign Office. If the Americans do not like Iran, that is their problem and they have been demonstrating this hatred throughout the world but let there be at least one place where they dare not say anything against a country with whom we share so much, with whom we have brotherly relations and which is a cornerstone in our establishment as a nation and continued existence as a sovereign entity.

Talks With France on Mirage 2000-5 Deal Commence

BK0211130495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Nov 95 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oct 31 — The two days Pak-France defence talks opened here in Rawalpindi on Tuesday morning to finalise the technical and financial details of Mirage 2000-5 being procured by Islamabad.

Two separate teams are currently holding extensive talks with Pakistani authorities to work out two comprehensive packages to finalise the Mirage 2000-5 deal with France, said official sources in Rawalpindi. The technical team from OGA [expansion unknown], the Mirage manufacturer, is holding discussions with the senior air-force officials from Operations [OP] over PAF's [Pakistan Air Force] specifications regarding the aircraft's abilities both in avionics and weapon systems. The talks will also cover the support and maintenance services provided by the French firm to the PAF.

The second team headed by a General, represents the French Ministry of Defence and would mostly cover the financial aspects of Mirage 2000-5 sales to Pakistan as well as review the ongoing military assistance programmes between the two countries. The French military experts are here as part of the agreement according to which the two sides since 1993 meet annually to discuss technical follow-ups to any weapons contracts signed between the two countries. The official team of France will not only cover the Mirage sales but would also conduct a follow-up to France's September 1994 sale of three Agosta class submarines to Pakistan Navy. The two sides are also expected to resume held up discussions about the final delivery of three Sofma's minehunters, a contract Islamabad signed in 1992. The Pak-France talks which will continue for another day will also review the several upgradation programmes being carried out by PAC [Pakistan Aeronautics Complex] Kamra with the assistance of Sagem of France and several others French firms.

The PAF has a large inventory of Mirage IIIs and IVs besides Puma and Lama helicopters. Pakistan Navy already has in service French Daphne submarines.

According to well informed defence sources Dassault's team which is carrying out technical discussion with PAF has already visited Kamara to workout a feasibility to house the new arrivals of maintenance and servicing of parts. In order to have an edge over IAF's [Indian Air Force] Mirage 2000s PAF has demanded a sophisticated, most advanced avionics package which include RDY [expansion unknown] lookdown radar. The PAF is also asking for BVR (beyond visual range) with multi-target engagement potential with MICA air-to-air missile.

Sources said there would be several rounds of talks between France and Pakistan before a final package was worked out. They indicated that second round might be held in Paris. According to official reports Pakistan seeks to buy at least 40 Mirage 2000-5 initially but would like to go for another batch of 40 if Dassault officers a good financial package including supplier's credit. Official sources, however, dispelled the impression that the French firm was facing difficulties in arranging for suppliers's credit due to non-clearance from EU as part of its disarmament efforts. The Muslim understands that the political clearance for the sale of Mi-

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rage 2000-5 to Pakistan was conveyed to Pakistan by the French Government after it had sought approval from EU for credits. Giving a detailed comparison of IAF's Mirages and the one PAF intends to induct sources said the multi-role fighter called Vajra (Mirage 20000) of IAF is inferior to Mirage 2000-5.

They said while Indian Mirages are equipped with RDI [expansion unknown] upward radar, the Mirage 2000-5 has the RDY look downs radar which can pick up fast moving objects accurately.

PPI ADDS: Secretary Defence Production Mazhar Rafi and French Engineer General Danial Barthault led their respective sides. The joint committee expressed its satisfaction over the progress made on the decisions taken in the last meeting held October 94, in defence cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The leader of the French delegation states that the forum provided an ideal opportunity to the officials of both sides to monitor progress on the collaboration between the two countries. The secretary defence production was assisted by the senior officials of the OP division and representatives of the three services.

MQM Head Seeks Freedom From 'Witch' Government

BK0811143395 Karachi AMN in Urdu 26 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 25 October (AMN News) — Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] Leader Altaf Hussain has said that even if thousands of despotic, ruthless, and barbarous rulers like Benazir Zardari and Nasirullah Babar came into being, the MQM would not surrender to their tyranny and would continue to wage the struggle to realize the rights of the Muhajirs while remaining within the geographical frontiers of Pakistan. He stated this in his address over telephone from London to the participants of a mammoth MQM protest rally held in front of the UN building in New York. It may be recalled that only moments before Altaf Hussain's address, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Zardari had addressed the summit meeting of the United Nations. The MQM had staged a massive protest demonstration to coincide with the prime minister's UN address.

Speaking about the ruthless and tyrannical steps taken by Prime Minister Benazir Zardari against the MQM and the Muhajir community, Altaf Hussain said that Benazir Zardari presents a different face to the world, especially to the West, and pretends to show that she has great respect for women's rights and that she believes in respect for human rights; however, in fact, she does not have any respect for women's rights. Rather, she is an enemy of womenfolk, of humanity. She is a tyrant and oppressor. She is a kind of witch who feels satisfied only after drinking the blood of the Muhajirs. Altaf Hussain said Benazir does not care at all about women's rights. This is borne out by the fact that in her own rule and on her own orders, Muhajir women are being arrested, tied upside down to wooden planks, and subjected to violence and torture. The present government has made the life of Muhajir women extremely difficult. Thus far, hundreds of Muhajir daughters have been arrested and taken to government torture cells, where they are tied upside down to wooden planks and subjected to torture throughout the night.

In his address, Altaf Hussain also informed the rally participants of the arrests of the daughters of the Muhajir nation — Miss Rais Fatima and Shazia Farooq — and Qamar Mansur, a Sindh Assembly member belonging to the [MQM's] Haq Parast party, and the outrageous atrocities committed against them. He said that Qamar Mansur was so ruthlessly tortured that his body has become paralyzed and he is now in a very critical condition. In the same manner, the government has arrested countless other assembly members, leaders, and workers of MQM's Haq Parast party. They are being kept in police custody and mercilessly tortured. He asked the participants to stage a massive protest demonstration and tell the entire world that a woman who murders other women can never be a sympathizer of women, humanity, or the nation.

The MQM chief said Benazir Zardari is raising the Kashmir issue at the United Nations only to show to the world that she is doing something about it; in fact, she has no interest in Kashmir. Altaf Hussain said the Kashmir dispute could have been resolved much earlier, because the entire nation is united in the effort to find a solution to this problem and to end the hardships of the Kashmiri people; but Benazir Zardari has unleashed an orgy of violence and massacres in all urban areas of Sindh, including Karachi, to place the Kashmir issue in cold storage and to further complicate it. For the sake of confinement and search operations, the entire Muhajir nation is being treated like a vanquished nation. In the course of each of these operations, nearly 5,000 Muhajirs have been arrested and their houses looted and ransacked. In order to further complicate the Kashmir issue, Benazir Zardari has taken her game of fire and blood into the urban areas of Sindh to an extreme, which shows that Benazir neither cares two hoots about the interests of Pakistan and its people nor has any sympathy for the Kashmiri people.

Informing the rally participants of the details of the outrageous atrocities committed against the Muhajir youths in police custody and their cold-blooded murder

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on the pretext of fake police encounters, Altaf Hussain said you should yourselves imagine how aggrieved a mother will feel when she witnesses the corpses of her two or three young sons being taken away for burial at the same time. What kind of a woman is Benazir Bhutto? Why doesn't she feel pity for these mothers? Altaf Hussain said the present government has broken all records of repression against the Muhajir community. The like of the reign of terror let loose by the government against the Muhajirs has possibly never been witnessed in the history of mankind. However, we are resolved that the MQM and the Muhajir people will not surrender, even in the face of tyranny by hundreds of empresses of oppression like Benazir and hundreds of ravenous beasts and wolves like [Interior Minister] Nasirullah Babar, and they will continue their struggle to achieve their rights, remaining within the geographical frontiers of Pakistan. We will not capitulate in the face of the atrocities committed by the Army, the Rangers, the police, or the Benazir government and its followers. This is the firm resolve of the entire Muhajir nation: that they will not rest and rejoice unless and until they have liberated themselves from oppression and tyranny.

Altaf Hussain said the journalists on the payrolls of the government and its agencies write that slogans for freedom were raised at the MQM rally, but they do not say what we mean when we call for freedom. They do not say that we want freedom from oppression, from Benazir's "witch" government. We want freedom from the atrocities of the tyrants and the repression of the despots, and from the prejudiced thinking of the racist rulers. We want a democratic solution to all our problems, but the Benazir government is indulging in the genocide of the Muhajirs instead of giving them their due rights. The MQM leader urged all participants of the rally and also the truth-loving Pakistanis living in the United States and Canada to unite to bring an end to the tyranny of the ruthless and despotic feudal lords in Pakistan. If we become united, then this brutal repression will one day, God willing, surely come to an end; the shackles of tyranny will be broken, and everyone of us will be free, he declared. In his address, Altaf Hussain paid rich tribute to the rally participants, especially the women, for displaying their zeal, spirit, and sincerity. Earlier, the MQM leader addressed foreign journalists in English for a few minutes, highlighting the ongoing violations of human rights of the Muhajirs by the Benazir government.

MQM 'Human Rights Wing' Claims Youths Detained

BK0311050895 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, October 29, 1995 — According to the report issued by MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] International Secretariat's Human Rights Wing, more than five thousand Muhajir youths and MQM workers and supporters are currently detained in different secret torture cells of Rangers and Field Security Wing (FSW). These illegally detained innocent civilians are being subjected to brutal torture and in last couple of week dozens of them have been murdered.

The report further elaborates the horrendous details of these state-sponsored cells and maintains that the arrests of these people are absolutely illegal because none of these government agencies have any permission granted through any court or magistrate for these arrests. They keep them in these cells so if any of them die due to torture, no court, police station or newspaper can provide the record of their arrests. According to the report, at this time these cells which are secretly functioning in Liaquat National Library, Surjani Town, Sohrab Goth, Site, Baldia Stadium behind Khwaja Ajmer Nagri Police Station, National Stadium, FC area, Maimon Goth and Qasimabad. Some MQM workers and supporters detained in these cells are their for more than six months and are passing through every possible physical abuse. Numerous have been killed by Rangers and FSW officials while many have broken legs and bones. MQM International Secretariat is providing the details of this horrible state terrorism to the Human Rights organizations and International agencies and are requesting them for their immediate action.

MQM Leader Demands Bhutto Choose Between Negotiators

BK0511123595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Nov 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (NNI) — MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] central leader Senator Ishtiaq Azhar has demanded of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto either to choose Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar or head of the government side for negotiations with MQM, federal Minister for Law Professor N D Khan for the future process of dialogues with MQM. He said if Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is really interested in ironing out differences with MQM, she is required to make a clear choice in choosing either of these two Federal Ministers as both of these government representatives are engaged in treating the MQM in radically self contradictory manner.

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Ishtiaq Azhar while talking to NNI here Saturday evening, alleged that the government strategy for dealing with MQM was very confusive and that Prof N D Khan had done nothing except wasting precious time under the cover of dialogues with MQM. He further alleged that compared to N D Khan, Nasirullah Babar was the de facto government agent and was ever ready to make plus points in the eyes of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the expense of law and order situation in Karachi.

At this point, he referred to Nasirullah Babar's statement on the fresh killings in Karachi as he had said that the culprits would be nabbed within 24 hours. He said no killer of the 15 massacred innocent people in Karachi had been arrested so far proving that Nasirullah Babar was a man of false promises and defective strategy.

The MQM Senator, similarly, criticised Chief Minister Sindh Syed Abdullah Shah and alleged, "Mr Shah is also under the influence of Nasirullah Babar and always puts the blame on MQM for all anti-social activities in Karachi. He also contradicted the government allegations that the letters of head of MQM side Ajmal Dehivi was the real cause of the delay in the dialogues with MQM. He also accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of adopting opportunistic measures in dealing with the Karachi problem.

'Qualitative Change' Seen in Karachi Situation

BK0811144095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The interior minister, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, has said there has been a qualitative change in the law and order situation in Karachi in the past few months. Talking to newsmen in Karachi today, he said people are fed up with violence and terrorist activities of the Altaf Group. The interior minister said another change is that courage has now emerged in Altaf Group's supporters who have started questioning their leader's way of life and policies. He said activists of Altaf Group were facing shortage of funds in Karachi as all the money was being sent to Altaf Hussain in London. The Altaf Group's terrorists and activists are now resorting to dacoities [robberies] in Karachi. The minister called upon the Altaf Group to say farewell to arms and assured that if this was done, he would advocate their cause for removing genuine grievances.

Government Reportedly Devalues Rupee 7 Percent

BK2810165195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government, after a careful consideration, has decided to readjust the rupee downwards by seven percent in dollar terms. This was announced by the adviser to the prime minister on finance and economic affairs, Mr. V.A. Jaffery, in an address over radio and television tonight. He said the prices of petroleum products are being increased by seven percent because of change in the value of the rupee. He said it has also been decided that in future petroleum prices would be linked to global oil prices so that changes can take place automatically in response to variations in world prices.

The adviser pointed out that the decision to readjust the rupee has been taken due to large currency depreciations by countries who compete with us in international markets. He said the Indian rupee has been devalued by 14 percent in four months. The adviser on finance and economic affairs emphasized that they were confident that Pakistan's exporters would respond to the incentives being given to them and would exploit fully the opportunities available in an expanding and liberalized global trading system. He said the government has undertaken a comprehensive review of the exports sector. A package of measures has been agreed upon for the cotton textile industry which is presently under implementation. Similarly, the structural problems faced by other industries are being looked into and steps would be taken to resolve them.

Mr. V.A. Jaffery said the government has decided to impose a temporary regulatory duty of 10 percent on all dutiable imports provided that the tariff does not exceed a maximum of 65 percent. Newsprint, whose duties were reviewed recently, would be excluded from this levy. It has also been decided that nondutiable imports would be subjected to a five percent duty with the exception of wheat, fertilizer, and import of power generation plant under the energy policy up to a maximum of 3,000 megawatts.

He said that the position of imports, however, free of duty under treaties with foreign governments and agencies would not be affected. He said to ensure strict control over expenditures, new financial arrangements for control and monitoring of public sector autonomous bodies were being introduced. The current expenditure of the government would be restricted to the annual budget and no request for extra budgetary funds would be entertained. The privatization program is being speeded up.

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Mr. V.A. Jaffery stated that the statements would be announced on measures for a tight monetary policy separately. The target set out in the credit budget would be strictly adhered to. The adviser on finance and economic affairs emphasized that steps to consolidate the balance of payment position were being taken to exploit fully the opportunities opened up by revival in growth output, particularly in agriculture. He said that the government expects that the cotton crop will exceed the target of 9.5 million bales. The prospects of rice and sugar cane crops are good. Sales of fertilizer are over 20 percent higher than last year. This is indicative of the fact that growth in agriculture is expected to be maintained in the Rabi [spring] season also. He said incentives of exports would help in the revival of the cotton textile industry which had registered decline during the last three months. He said the measures being taken were necessary to maintain export growth. He expressed the confidence that the package now adopted would in the long run stimulate higher output and reduce monetary and fiscal pressure, bringing about more stable prices.

Minister Emphasizes Devaluation 'Final'

BK0111161395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Makhdum Shahabuddin, minister of state for finance, has stated in categorical terms that the recent devaluation of rupee is final, and there will not be any further depreciation of rupees. In response to a question of Chaudhary Bilchis Tahir in the National Assembly this evening, he said this step was taken out of compulsion to bring our exports in par with the commodities of other countries, remove the gap between imports and exports, and to eliminate speculation.

Bhutto Justifies 'Essential' Currency Devaluation

BK0211140995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister [Benazir Bhutto] has said devaluation in the currency had become essential to safeguard our exports, maintain industrial growth, and protect the jobs of workers and peasants. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar today, the prime minister said devaluation of currency is not the phenomenon confined to Pakistan alone. In the recent years, India, Bangladesh, and some other countries devalued their currencies to keep the flow of their exports intact and to maintain the functioning of their industrial units. In today's world, the prime minister added, we cannot remain isolated and unaffected by the international monetary situation, especially in the Asian region. She said it was not a part of macroeconomic policy to devalue rupee, but, when India devalued its currency by 14 percent, we were forced in a situation where we have to devalue our rupee by 7 percent. If we hadn't devalued our currency, our exports would have suffered and industrial output would have decreased with a direct result on joblessness of the industrial workers.

Replying to a question about the opposition's plan of agitation, the prime minister said the people have rejected the politics of agitation and those politicians who plundered the national wealth and brought instability in the country. People, she added, want stability and economic reforms in the country. The people will reject the opposition's call of agitation as they do not want to see return of those parties who indulged in corruption, looted the banks, and deprived the innocent people of their money through cooperative scandals. They will not subject themselves to (?chaos) and confusion once again, she added.

Sri Lanka

Minister: Success Due to New Arms, Morale

BK0911030195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0239 GMT 9 Nov 95

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 9 (AFP) — Sri Lankan security forces for the first time in eight years have the separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas on the run, thanks to superior fire power, high morale and intensive training, analysts said.

The army has made considerable gains in its drive to wrest control of the northern Jaffna peninsula from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), where the rebels have ruled a de facto state since 1990, military officials said.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte, who leads the offensive begun on October 17, said the first casualty in the military campaign was the LTTE's image as an "invincible" guerrilla group.

"We have shattered the myth that the LTTE is an invincible movement. Now we have them on the run. We are going to crush them in the Jaffna peninsula very soon," the minister said, adding that it will be "long before the New Year."

The minister, a retired army colonel, said the success of the security forces resulted from increased motivation, the military hardware bought by the new government and intensive training programs in the past year.

The military acquired nearly 200 second-hand battle tanks from Russia, three transport planes from Ukraine

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and are expecting more helicopters, fast-attack craft and light bombers from Israel to boost the battle against the Tigers.

"The soldiers were not motivated earlier because every time an offensive was launched, the troops were stopped half way. But this time, I have given them an assurance that there is no turning back," Ratwatte said.

In 1987, the Sri Lankan army captured the eastern Vadamarachchi sector of the peninsula but stopped before taking Jaffna town located in the southwest of the 900-square-mile (2,345-square- kilometre) peninsula.

However, in the latest drive, troops have moved within 4.5 kilometres of Jaffna, a bastion of the LTTE, and were consolidating in areas captured from the rebels before launching what is expected to be the bloodiest phase of the fighting.

Ratwatte told a group of reporters here Tuesday [7 November] that they can take Jaffna in two days but were moving cautiously to minimise civilian losses.

"We are deliberately moving slowly because we don't want to destroy everything on our way," he said.

Destruction to buildings and vegetation had been minimal with some roofs blasted from mortar bomb attacks by both sides, he said. So far, 262 soldiers have died and 1,670 have been wounded.

The military estimates rebel casualties at 1,254 killed and 3,962 wounded.

Chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said they expected more fighting at three more towns before Jaffna could fall. "The deadliest fighting is still ahead of us," Munasinghe said.

Although monsoon rains were affecting the movement of heavy armour, a change in the weather was anticipated, so the rains were not a setback to the military's plans to "liberate" minority Tamils from the LTTE, he said.

But defence sources said that the LTTE's ability to carry out spectacular suicide attacks to slow down the army advance should not be underestimated.

In July, the LTTE launched a ferocious counterattack sacrificing 17 members of an elite suicide squad to sink the navy's largest command and control ship, eventually forcing the army to stop an offensive against them.

Retired airforce chief Harry Gunatillaka was sceptical about the military's ability to take Jaffna, which the Tigers have vowed to defend to the last man.

"There is no real strategic value in taking Jaffna except that it is a very important symbol," he said. "If the army tries to hold Jaffna, they will need more men. Without sufficient troops, the Jaffna operation can be a debacle.

Aid Agencies Concerned Over Food Supply, Epidemics

BK0911081795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0759 GMT 9 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 9 (AFP) — International aid agencies and Tamil parties on Thursday [9 November] expressed concern over the fate of thousands of Tamils displaced in the north, saying the refugees faced serious food shortages and epidemics.

Four aid agencies said in an open letter to the government that "many thousands" of Tamils displaced by fighting between the advancing army and Tamil guerrillas in Jaffna were facing severe hardships.

"Many are living in welfare centres which are not providing adequate shelter from the monsoon rains," said the letter signed by local officials of Oxfam, Save the Children Fund, CARE International and Medecins Sans Frontieres.

"Water supplies and sanitation facilities are increasingly inadequate, thus increasing the risk of epidemic diseases," it said. "Food security is fragile."

"There are inadequate cooking facilities and in (one place) there is an acute shortage of cooking fuel," the aid agencies said, calling upon the government to help speed up relief supplies to the island's north.

A major army offensive launched on October 17 in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, which the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has ruled since 1990, has forced thousands of Tamil civilians to flee their homes.

Tamil sources and officials say the refugees, whose number is estimated at between 100,000 and half a million, were massed in the southern part of Jaffna and in neighbouring Kilinochchi district.

Nine Tamil political parties here said the refugees faced starvation.

"The refugee problem is unmanageable," the parties, including one led by senior minister S. Thondaman, said in a joint statement. "Human misery is untold. There is an acute shortage of milk food for infants...

"Already there is an outbreak of diarrhoea and in a short time, it will assume epidemic proportions," the parties added. "No medicines to control such outbreaks are available. No antibiotics are available to treat the injured.

"The situation can only be compared to that of Bosnia," the statement said, and called for an immediate ceasefire

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between Colombo and the LTTE, followed by negotiations.

The government says only 100,000 civilians have been displaced, and denies there are food shortages. But faced with growing international concern, authorities have begun shipping food to Jaffna.

Colombo has been miffed by the concern voiced by the United Nations over the refugee situation. On Tuesday, the government suspended a top official in Jaffna for putting the number of refugees at 400,000.

Tamil sources here, however, say that the refugees were facing serious problems related to shelter, health and sanitation. Many thousands have reportedly taken shelter in school buildings, temples and churches.

The entire area is under LTTE control, and the government says it will allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to distribute the relief.

The international aid agencies informed Colombo that there was a "need for more funds, resources and skills" in the region, and called for "a streamlining of procedures to accelerate the movement of relief supplies."

The open letter followed the Sri Lankan government's assertion, after the UN's show of concern, that all relief to the Tamil refugees would have to be channelled through Colombo.

The aid agencies, which function in the LTTE zone, said: "We offer our resources to work with the government to undertake a joint assessment of the scale of the displacement and the nature and depth of the need."

The LTTE is waging a protracted campaign for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka's northeast. Sri Lankan troops pressing a major offensive are barely 4. 5 kilometers (three miles) from Jaffna town.

Government to Public: War Is Not Against You

BK0711042695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters dropped thousands of pamphlets in Tamil and English over the Jaffna peninsula to inform civilians of the government's peace efforts and to explain that the war is only against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and not against the Tamil people.

"This war is not against you," said one of the leaflets. "It is being conducted with the sole objective of ending this terrible war and to establish peace in the north which will enable you to enjoy the fruits of political, economic and social freedom that prevails in the rest of the country".

Another leaflet outlined the government's devolution proposals.

Meanwhile, troops engaged in Operation Riviresa (Sunshine) were consolidating their positions around Neerveli and clearing mines and booby traps. No incidents were reported.

Defence sources in Colombo said the forces were advancing slowly due to the heavy concentration of mines and the need to minimise civilian casualties. They are now 4.5 km from the outer city limits of Jaffna.

Reports reaching Colombo from the north said the Tigers were not allowing all civilians to leave Jaffna. A senior military official described this a standard LTTE ploy to claim civilian casualties and gain sympathy. The reports added that the LTTE has removed a substantial amount of military hardware out of Jaffna and shifted their offices elsewhere.

The military offensive began on October 17 when thousands of infantrymen broke out of the Forward Defended Localities (FDLs) of the Palaly military complex in the Jaffna peninsula and moved southwards backed by aircover. armour and artillery.

Meanwhile, 12 soldiers were killed and three others wounded in a rebel ambush at anicut junction in Valachchenai in eastern Batticaloa district early Monday [6 November]. The soldiers were on a route clearing patrol when ambushed, according to the military. The body of a rebel believed to have been killed in the fighting was also recovered along with his weapon from the scene of the fighting.

In another incident, soldiers killed five rebels last morning in Ahetugaswewa, seven kilometres away from north eastern Welioya, during an abortive attempt to ambush an army route clearing patrol. The bodies of the rebels were recovered and arrangements are being made to hand them over to the LTTE through the ICRC, a military official said.

Troops Reportedly Destroy LTTE Underground Bunker

BK0211165395 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1026 GMT 2 Nov 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (LANKAPUVATH)— Sri Lankan security forces in their operation 'Rivirasa' (sunshine) to take the northern Jaffna peninsula from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], Wednesday [1 November] captured and destroyed Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakran's three-tiered underground command bunker at

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Uraly. Senior security sources told LANKAPUVATH that Prabhakaran had arrived daily in a vehicle and had been taken down to the bunker in a turnstile. The troops had, in the same area, captured an ammunition dump, a glass factory and two fuel generators which were still in their crates. The troops, despite heavy rains, were holding their positions and moving forward.

Tigers Reportedly Announce Headquarter Relocation

BK0311154595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 3 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Friday [3 November] announced relocating their political headquarters in northern Sri Lanka to escape an ongoing military offensive in the region.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement from its London office that its civil administration was moved from Jaffna's Walikamam area to the Thenamarachchi region where there was no fighting.

Security forces have been closing in on Jaffna town since launching a major operation on October 17. Thousands of civilians have fled to Thenamarachchi to escape the fighting.

"To avoid being trapped by the Sri Lankan Army, functioning government agencies (and) civil administration bodies are also moving to the new population centres in Thenamarachchi," the LTTE statement said.

The statement came as the military said it was consolidating in newly-captured areas and was poised to launch a fresh advance to take control of the peninsula which has been under rebel control for five years.

Army Reportedly Issues Alert, Begins House Searches

BK0511093695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 5 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger rebels bombed a town in eastern Sri Lanka Sunday [5 November], killing two people, as the army mounted pressure on the guerrillas with a nation-wide alert and house-to-house searches in the capital.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) exploded a motorcycle bomb outside a small hotel at Ampara town, 350 kilometres (218 miles) east of here, killing two men and wounding 37, a police official said by telephone.

The LTTE has been accused of massacring Sinhalese peasants in Ampara district in a bid to blunt a major army offensive underway in the rebels' Jaffna peninsula stronghold in the island's north since October 17.

The bomb attack came as the country was placed on red alert for possible retaliatory attacks by the LTTE which is fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east.

A police official said a house-to-house search was launched in Colombo during the weekend for Tamil Tigers who may have infiltrated the city.

"The cordon-and-search is carried out to ensure the safety of people. We know that there may be Tigers still lurking in Colombo waiting to carry out attacks," a police spokesman said.

He said the military has been deployed alongside police to round up suspects. The government last week banned all state functions to divert funds for the battle against the LTTE.

Schools across the country have shut indefinitely amid fears of rebel attacks but the LTTE denied it planned such reprisals and said the "real reason" for the closure was a shortage of fuel in the country.

However, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation chairman Anil Obeysekera denied there was any shortage of fuel and said supplies have long been restored after the Tamil Tigers blasted two oil storage depots here on October 20.

The Tigers blew up the oil depots three days after the military began its biggest ground offensive against the LTTE with the objective of taking Jaffna town which had been under rebel rule for five years.

Travellers from the Jaffna region said the LTTE used loud hailers to order thousands of civilians to flee the Walikamam sector, which includes Jaffna town, where the army is conducting its campaign.

They said the LTTE's de facto immigration office which issued "visas" to those leaving the rebel-held territory had moved out of Jaffna town while the LTTE's political headquarters at Kondavil remained closed.

The refugees were moving to the Thenamarachchi region in the south of the peninsula where there had been no fighting between the LTTE and the security forces, travellers arriving at the government-held town of Vavuniya said.

However, the LTTE said its administration remained in Jaffna despite the army drive. Security forces have advanced within 4.5 kilometres of the Jaffna town limits

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but there was no fighting overnight, a military statement said.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said the army was consolidating in areas captured from the rebels and was clearing minefields before resuming its advance from the town of Neerveli captured last week.

"For the past four days we are clearing mines at Neerveli. There has been no attacks from the LTTE," Munasinghe said adding the Tigers were moving their office to prevent documents falling into the hands of the army.

The LTTE denied it was relocating its offices and said only the Colombo government's administrative units moved from the Walikamam area of Jaffna to the south of the peninsula at Thenamarachchi.

However, officials here said all offices in Jaffna functioned under the iron control of the LTTE which had its own police, courts and communications network in the region.

The LTTE in a statement from its London office Sunday denied ordering Tamil civilians to flee, saying people were leaving on their own to avoid being hit by shells and mortar bombs fired by the army.

The United Nations has appealed for aid for up to 400,000 people fleeing the fighting but the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga said Saturday it was capable of handling the crisis.

Priests Said Arrested for Smuggling Money to Jaffna

BK0611103195 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0749 GMT 6 Nov 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (LANKAPUVATH) — Sri Lankan security forces have seized over rs. [rupees] 13 million in cash, copper wire and pentorch batteries from two senior Catholic clergymen, one of them described as the secretary to the bishop of Jaffna, who had failed to declare these items at the military barrier at Thandikulam in Vavuniya while on their way to Jaffna on Sunday [5 November].

Senior military sources told LANKAPUVATH Monday that the priest described as the bishop's secretary, Saverimuttu Jebanason, was allegedly carrying rs. 11.27 million, 13.5 kgs of copper wire in the false bottom of a suitcase while the other cleric Mariapillai Emmanuel Pius of the Faxel Centre of the Kilinochchi Catholic Church was allegedly in possession of rs. 2.2 millio in the false bottom of a suitcase. They also found four motor cycle oil seals and four pentorch batteries.

According to senior military sources, the two clergymen had said that they had been given the money and the goods by the bishop to take with them to Jaffna.

They are being detained by the police.

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